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Saipan Tribune

CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

Volume XX, Issue No. 96

FRIDAY APRIL 23, 2010

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OPINION METER

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INSIDE



Earth Day

Pollution before the first Earth Day was not only visible, it was in your face.

NATION...Page 22



Credit Resources

Online resources on how to properly manage our personal credit.

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY...
Page 26



Urban Out

Not enough "American Idol" viewers were inspired to vote for Tim Urban.

LIFE & STYLE...Page 27

GOP president quits for family medical reason. **PAGE 2**
Villagomez's, Santos's motion for release denied. **PAGE 6**

IN JUST SIX MONTHS

PSS incurs \$631K water bill

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

It seems the Public School System's call to conserve water has fallen on deaf ears, with public schools racking up a water bill totaling \$631,000 in the past six months alone.

See PSS on **Page 4**

Nogis bags another \$40K sole source contract; Rebuenog now also at DPL

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Felix R. Nogis, who bagged a sole-source \$60,000 contract as consultant to the secretary of the Department of Public Lands, also got a federally-funded \$40,000 sole-source contract with the Department of Lands and Natural Resources, multiple

EXCLUSIVE

See \$40K on Page 4



Nogis



Rebuenog

Stars & Stripes to offer charter ferry services for Tinian fiesta

Sunset cruise company Sea-Lago Inc. will be offering charter ferry services between Tinian and Rota from April 29 to May 3 during the San Jose Fiesta.

Company president Sam Markos said they intend to use their 72-foot *Stars & Stripes* boat for the shuttle operations.

He, however, did not disclose how much he will charge for the service.

According to Markos, the metal-hulled boat is U.S. Coast Guard-approved and can accommodate up to 88 passengers. "[Its capacity gives them] plenty of room

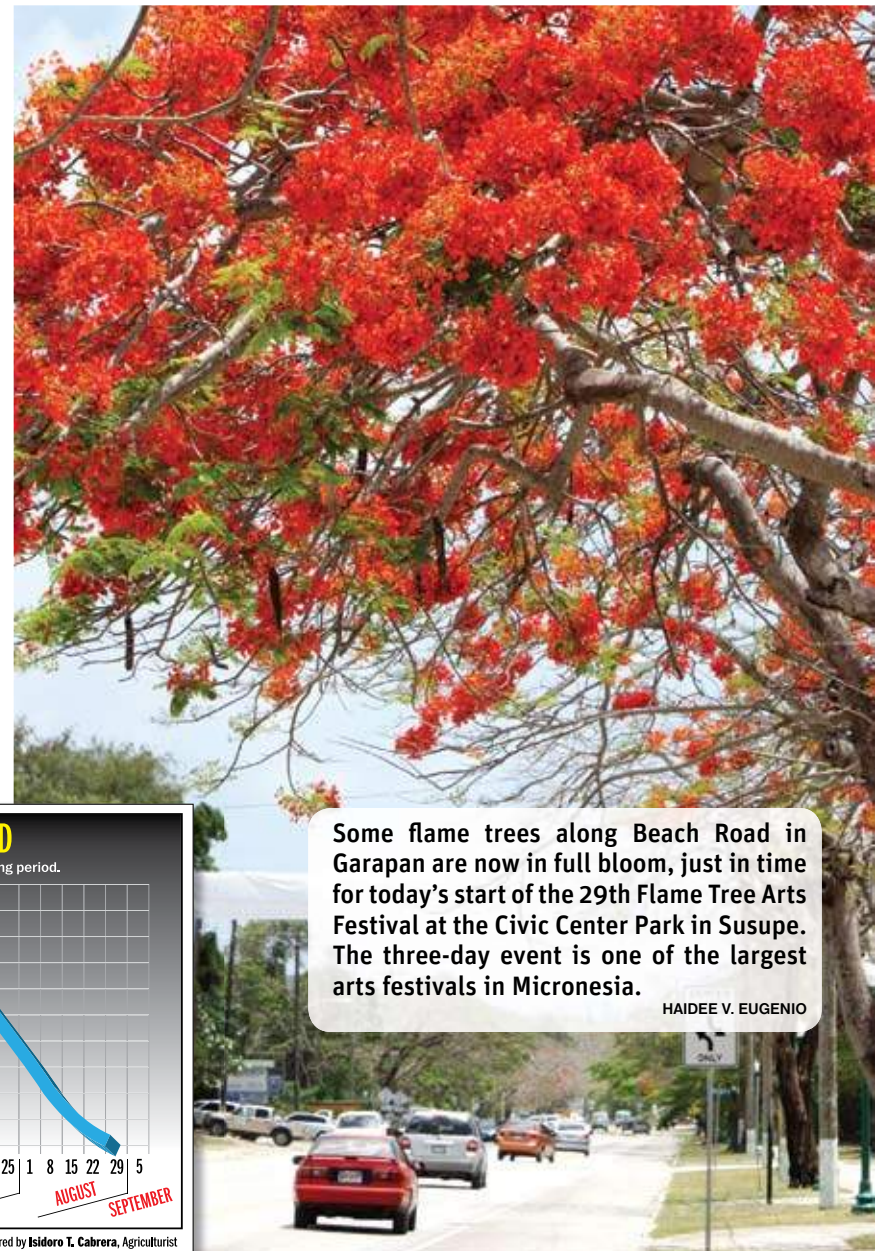
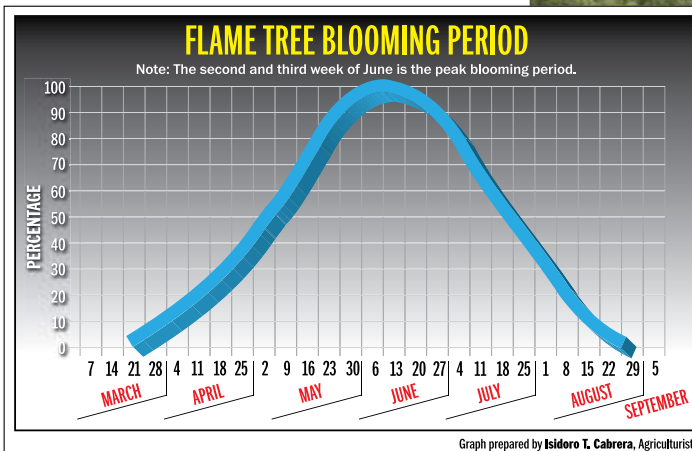
See FERRY on Page 4

Flame Tree Arts Festival is here but where are the flame trees?

Today marks the start of the three-day 29th Flame Tree Arts Festival, the largest annual arts event in Micronesia. Scheduled every April, the festival was timed so that it would synchronize with the blossoming of the flame trees on the island.

However, driving along Beach Road or the Airport Road where flame trees abound, one would notice that only a few have started to display their amazingly bright

See FLAME TREE on Page 4



Some flame trees along Beach Road in Garapan are now in full bloom, just in time for today's start of the 29th Flame Tree Arts Festival at the Civic Center Park in Susupe. The three-day event is one of the largest arts festivals in Micronesia.

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

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Local

By **MONETH G. DEPOSA**
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The newly elected president of the NMI Republican Party, Dave Attao, has quit his post due to family medical reasons.

Attao will meet with the other officers of the local organization today to discuss his position and formally tender his resignation.

Attao was elected GOP president last March 25. He served as

acting leader during the term of Ed Tenorio where he was lauded by members for his exceptional performance during the 2009 general election campaign.

Although the vice president usually takes over the helm in the absence of the top leader, Attao said the members will decide on who will be appointed to replace him.

Current officers of the party include Emi Palican, who was

GOP president quits

named the group's first vice president; and Donald Barcinas, who was elected second vice president. Ramon Salas and Alisa Pangelinan were also chosen as the GOP's treasurer and secretary, respectively.

Attao, who said he will be traveling often to attend to the

medical needs of a family member, assured partymates that he will continue to support and stay with the local GOP.

"I just can't commit all my time to the party now...because we have a situation in the family that we need to prioritize. But I will still be here on island and

will continue to support GOP," he told *Saipan Tribune*.

On Wednesday, the GOP will officially endorse former governor Juan N. Babauta as its standard-bearer for the delegate election in November after no one submitted a bid for the position.

Yesterday, Babauta described Attao's resignation as "unfortunate" for the party.

He believes that Attao, based on his good performance in last

year's campaign, will run a good campaign for this year's election.

Babauta will run against three other contenders for the delegate post, including Covenant Party's Joseph Camacho, Democratic Party's Jesus Borja, and incumbent Gregorio Kilili Sablan, an independent.

Attao believes that Babauta has a good chance and will give a good fight for the GOP in this year's election.

House worker sues Labor for revoking her umbrella permit

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

A jobless house worker who claims she is still owed \$5,145 in unpaid wages by her former

employer has sued the Department of Labor for revoking her umbrella permit.

The Office of the Federal Ombudsman assisted Pamela L. Borja in filing the lawsuit

against Labor.

Borja asked the Superior Court to reverse and set aside Labor's administrative order, issued by Barry Hirshbein. She asked the court to order Labor

to issue her a replacement umbrella permit.

The house worker asserted that Labor's revocation of her permit exceeds its constitutional and statutory authority. She said Labor's action is "arbitrary and capricious, and in violation of the supremacy

clause of the U.S. Constitution and the 14th Amendment of the U.S. Constitution."

According to Borja's petition, Labor served her on May 11, 2009, with a copy of an order dismissing her complaint against her former employer. She appealed with Labor.

On Nov. 27, 2009, Borja said, Labor issued an umbrella permit extending her status and authorizing her to work in the CNMI until Nov. 27, 2011.

The house worker said that

on Jan. 15, 2010, she reported to Labor Tinian per Labor's instruction to retrieve an umbrella permit with her photo.

Instead of issuing a replacement umbrella permit with her photo, Borja said Labor confiscated her original umbrella permit as well as her only copy of it.

In an administrative order dated March 8, 2010, Hirshbein noted that Borja failed to appear at the hearing on Feb. 18, 2010, despite being served with a notice.

Hirshbein said the respondent also failed to register for transfer prior to Jan. 15, 2010, the report back date of her umbrella permit.

Borja asked the court to review Hirshbein's order revoking her umbrella permit.

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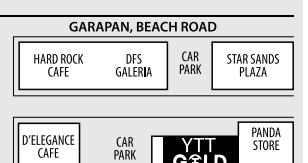
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Alien registration, floating benchmarks, fees in proposed labor regs

By **HAIDEE V. EUGENIO**
haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The government has issued its proposed amendments to the CNMI Employment Rules and Regulations to require registration of aliens, change the 20 percent local hiring requirement to a floating benchmark, establish fees of up to \$300, and incorporate changes contained in Public Law 17-1, among other things.

The public has 30 days from April 19 to comment on the proposed regulations, published in the latest Commonwealth Register.

These proposed regulations are effective on May 15, 2010, or at the completion of publication, whichever is later.

They shall not apply retroactively to applications filed or proceedings in the Administrative Hearing Office that were pending before that date.

Press secretary Angel Demapan said yesterday that the Fitial administration "worked hard to ensure that all areas of concerns were properly addressed."

The Saipan Chamber of Commerce, the largest business organization in the CNMI, said yesterday that the membership will review the proposed rules and will hold a video conference with Labor special legal counsel Deanne Siemer next week.

The proposals, which are

amendments to the Employment Rules and Regulations, has six major subjects and issues involved, as summarized by the Department of Labor.

These include implementing the changes in definitions provided in P.L. 17-1, the omnibus immigration bill that asserts CNMI control over nonresident workers and removes all references to immigration and deportation from the Commonwealth Code to conform with the federalization law that came into effect on Nov. 28, 2009.

Alien registration

The proposed rules also require registration of aliens and an ID system, which some community members said are discriminatory, demeaning and outrageous.

Labor said the registration of aliens present in the Commonwealth is permitted under both federal and Commonwealth law, particularly the Consolidated Natural Resources Act and the Immigration and Nationality Act.

Under the Commonwealth registration, every alien who remains in the CNMI longer than 90 days shall be required to be

registered. Registration shall be renewed annually. The parents of legal guardians of aliens under the age of 18 are responsible for such child's registration.

Registration shall be conducted by the Department of Labor for all classes of aliens.

Registered aliens will be issued an identification card, which will contain the name of the alien, the LIDS number, such identifying information as the Labor secretary may require, and the expiration date of the card.

Registered aliens at least 18 years old shall keep their identification card in their personal possession or control at all times.

Non-compliance with the alien registration is a misdemeanor, punishable by imprisonment of not more than 90 days, or a fine of not more than \$500, or both.

An alien is defined as any person who is not a citizen, national or permanent resident of the United States, or a CMI permanent resident as provided by Commonwealth law prior to April 23, 1981.

"To the extent that the federal

government registers aliens in the Commonwealth and provides registration information to the Commonwealth, the Commonwealth will not duplicate the registration requirement," the proposed rules said.

Fees

The Department of Labor is proposing several fees.

Posting a job vacancy announcement, registration to transfer, attendance at orientation, filing of workforce plan, and mediation of labor disputes are free.

There's a \$300 fee for an application for an approved contract, including initial, transfer and renewal. But there will be no fee if a federal fee has been paid.

There's also a \$250 fee for an application for an approved contract (non-business employ-

er). Again, there will be no fee if a federal fee has been paid.

The other fees range from \$5 to \$150.

These include \$150 for processing of a temporary work authorization; \$150 for an expedited processing, in addition to the fee; \$100 for request for

certificate of good standing; \$50 for replacement or duplicate permit; \$50 for request for extension of transfer; \$35 a month for contract extensions up to six months; \$25 for contract amendment or change; \$25 for annual registration; \$20 per person for filing a complaint with the Hearing Office; and \$5 for penalty fee for untimely renewal. There are other fees.

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BOE approves expansion of kindergarten program

By **MONETH G. DEPOSA**
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Board of Education approved yesterday the expansion of the Public School System's kindergarten program, providing full day sessions instead of the current half-day classes.

However, the board noted that pending the submission of the "action plan," the full day session may not take place in all public schools because of the needed additional classrooms.

According to Marylou S. Ada, chairperson of the board's committee on capital improvement projects, the plan would require PSS to raise \$3 million alone for the building of additional facilities.

She said the cost to hire more employees for the program as well as other

operational expenditures have also not been factored into the equation.

In order to begin the full-day session on Saipan, she said 24 new classrooms must be built, estimated to cost \$150,000 per classroom or \$3 million overall.

Ada said these classrooms would accommodate the 200 to 300 kids who are currently not enrolled in the program.

PSS has noted a significant increase in the number of students on the program's wait list every year. At present, many public schools limit their kindergarten enrollment from 30 to 60 as a result of lack of personnel and classrooms. Classes are done in one session each in the morning and afternoon.

Based on the PSS Facts & Figures for SY 2008-2009, there were a total of

614 kindergarten students enrolled in 12 elementary schools on Saipan, Rota, and Tinian.

Ada admitted that PSS so far has no available funding for the purpose.

However, she recommended that since there are available classrooms for the kindergarten expansion on Rota and Tinian, the board could allow them to go ahead and start accommodating kids in full-day sessions.

Herman T. Guerrero, chairperson of the board's fiscal and personnel affairs committee, said schools on Saipan that can accommodate the full-day session should start implementing the new schedule.

However, Guerrero emphasized that PSS may also enforce it next year and instructed Education Commissioner

Dr. Rita A. Sablan to seek the Fitial administration's help for funding.

Guerrero told *Saipan Tribune* yesterday that the board fully supports the "expansion" concept, but due to limited funding, PSS cannot just begin the full-day sessions at once.

"The board has approved the concept...and we're working on the details on how PSS can be able to accommodate that. There are important requirements on this expansion plan that we need to address first...and it is about funding," Guerrero said.

FLAME TREE

From Page 1

crimson blossoms. How then can anyone call it Flame Tree Arts Festival when there are hardly any blooming flame trees in sight?

Isidoro Cabrera had exactly that question in mind. "Only a few trees right now are blooming in Garapan," said Cabrera, an agricultural consultant and a retired government employee.

This was the reason why he decided to observe and study the blooming period of flame trees here on Saipan. Cabrera began observing the flame trees in 2001. For the duration of his study, Cabrera monitored when the first flame tree would start showing its intensely colored flowers up to the time when all trees have matured and blossomed to their fullest.

Cabrera said that while there are a number of trees that bloom early on once in a while, there is still a widely noticeable trend in terms of the blooming period of flame trees.

Based on the results of his study, Cabrera found out that for the past 10 years, the peak of the flame trees' blooming period is in fact between the second and third week of June.

In some areas like the Garapan Fishing Base, flame trees bloom early, mainly due to different environmental factors such as type of soil and drainage.

Cabrera believes that with his findings, it is wise to move the festival to June so that the community as well as

tourists can enjoy the event at a time when they can take pleasure in all the flame trees around.

Cabrera concedes that some people would not warm up to that idea in the beginning. "They would learn to appreciate [changing the dates of the festival] eventually," he added.

Angel Hocog, executive director of the Council for Arts and Culture, which organizes the festival, said he himself noticed the change in terms of the blooming period of the flame trees. "I'm glad that somebody's doing that, to really look into our beautiful flowers and when [is] it's actual blooming season," he said.

Hocog also disclosed that modifying the schedule of the Flame Tree Arts Festival is actually part of his plans for its 30th year celebration but has one major concern. "We want to incorporate the actual event into the actual blooming season. We're trying to work with a schedule that won't overlap with other activities. I plan to submit my proposal for next year's festival in early June. I hope all parties that I'm going to be working with will agree with the proposal that I make."

Hocog said the board of directors will take part in the decision-making process. "I do the recommendation and suggestion to the board for their approval... The executive director, with the concurrence of the DCCA secretary, will pick the appropriate dates."

This year's Flame Tree Arts Festival is being held at the Civic Center in Susupe. (*Saipan Tribune*)

FERRY

From Page 1

to walk around the boat," he said.

Stars & Stripes began offering sunset dinner cruises in 2005.

Markos came up with idea for a Saipan-Tinian charter service after Tinian Shipping and Transportation temporarily suspended its ferry service for the next five to six months beginning March 16, pending repairs needed to comply with the American Bureau of Shipping's regulations.

Stars & Stripes' limited run is timed to coincide with one of the busiest times on Tinian, the San Jose fiesta. The occasion, meant to honor Tinian's patron saint, always appeals to visitors particularly from neighboring islands, drawing hundreds of participants and observers every year.

Operating the *Stars & Stripes* for this purpose can actually mitigate any negative impact of the temporary suspension of the other ferry service, according to Markos.

"We want to make it affordable [for people to travel to Tinian]," he said.

Aside from transporting people, *Stars & Stripes* can also carry goods and soft cargo for its passengers and

even for businesses. This will be a great opportunity for them, Markos said.

Travel by air

Since the suspension of ferry services between Tinian and Saipan, people have been relying solely on air transfer when traveling to Tinian.

Freedom Air offers daily flights to Tinian using a six-seater aircraft at \$84 per roundtrip ticket, while Star Marianas Air flies passengers on a charter basis.

Markos, meanwhile, also stated that they are also looking at establishing a route between the islands of Saipan, Tinian, Rota and Guam by means of a second vessel, the *MV Challenger*.

According to Markos, this 65-foot sea craft can hold up to 40 passengers and would most likely concentrate on the Rota-Guam route. "Since cost of goods [on Rota] is skyrocketing, this will be an alternative for the local people," added Markos.

Government support

Markos cited the importance of getting the support of and eventually funding from the government. "We are still in the process of talking to them and working with all agencies [involved]. [So far,] everybody we talked to are in

favor."

Although the Saipan-Tinian shuttle service will be on a charter basis initially, with a minimum of 20-25 individuals and rates are still rough around the edges, Markos assures that these can change depending on the response they get. "We try to get [the cost] down as low as we can. We will evaluate [what's going to happen] during the fiesta, see if it works if we can operate at all until funding is available."

Markos affirmed that they want to make it happen and this wouldn't be possible without the help of the public. "We encourage the community to give their feedback and show their support."

For inquiries, contact Sea Lago, Inc. at 483-7231.

Situated about five miles southwest of Saipan and with a total area of 39.2 sq mi, Tinian is the second largest island in the CNMI.

Known for its historical significance as the point of launch of the atomic bomb attacks to Japan during World War II, Tinian has also become famous for the only casino in the Marianas, the Tinian Dynasty Hotel and Casino, as well as its annual Hot Pepper Festival which features the local pepper *donne sali*. (*Saipan Tribune*)

\$40K

From Page 1

sources confirmed with *Saipan Tribune*.

Nogis, doing business as FELNO Consulting Services, now has at least \$100,000 in sole-source government contracts since he obtained a business license on Jan. 25, 2010.

The Covenant Party's losing Northern Islands mayoral candidate, Ramona T. Rebuenog, now has a new job as DPL liaison to the Northern Islands development projects on Monday, sources also confirmed.

Rebuenog started working at DPL on Monday.

Unlike Nogis who is a consultant, Rebuenog is an excepted service employee earning \$35,000 a year.

Rebuenog filed a lawsuit after she lost the bitterly contested Northern Islands race by a single vote in November. When another election was held early this year, she lost by 20 votes to now Northern Islands Mayor Tobias Aldan, an independent.

Meanwhile, Nogis' \$40,000 contract as DLNR consultant is still being routed. He could not be reached for comment.

Just like his one-year contract with DPL, Nogis will also be working on DLNR projects related to the Northern Islands.

Some government employees expressed disappointment yesterday that while they will soon receive a 10-hour work hour cut equivalent to 12.5 percent of their salary per pay period, the government continues to hire consultants and employees they deem not essential.

"It's like we're being stabbed on the back. We are supposed to be in austerity but we are still hiring consultants. We don't need a lot of consultants in government," said the employee, who has been working for the government for some 20 years.

Elected officials, who declined to be identified for fear of political retaliation, said it's time that the public know about continued government hiring despite steadily decreasing government revenue—from \$150 million to \$137 million.

Nogis, a Covenant Party member and part of the Fitial-Inos Transition Review Committee, is the chairman of the Committee to Elect Joseph N. Camacho as CNMI Delegate to the U.S. House of Representatives endorsed by

the ruling Covenant Party.

As consultant to the DPL secretary, Nogis' main responsibility is to assist in implementing Public Law 16-50, which establishes a village and agricultural homesteading program in the Northern Islands. Gov. Benigno R. Fitial signed P.L. 16-50 on Jan. 15, 2010.

His duties also include the assessment of DPL's policy in public land development and investment.

DPL justified the sole-source contract by citing Nogis' "over 15 years of administrative work experience," and fluency in "both the Chamorro and Carolinian languages." DPL said it expects that Nogis' services will help boost "DPL's efforts in revitalizing the CNMI's economy."

Sources have also questioned awarding such a contract to a person with a federal conviction and whether the contract amount required a public notice.

Nogis was convicted on federal theft charges involving over \$15,000 worth of personal telephone calls to and from Palau and other places in 2000 when he was still executive director of the Workforce Investment Agency, and submitted the bills for those calls to WIA, which was receiving federal funds.

PSS

From Page 1

PSS financial consultant Ed Tenorio described the amount as "excessive" during yesterday's regular Board of Education meeting.

What's worse, Tenorio said, is that the amount is expected to go up due to the rate increase being proposed by CUC for water and wastewater service.

If the trend continues, he projects PSS to incur a water expenditure of over \$1 million in a 12-month period.

A small school with a little over 200 enrollees like Tanapag Elementary School, for instance, has been found consuming \$24,000 worth of water on a monthly basis, which is four times higher than the \$6,000 it used to get billed on.

Board member Marylou Ada described the Tanapag billing as "very alarming."

Other big schools like Hopwood Junior High School were also found using "too much" water, incurring \$72,000 in monthly consumption.

Problem schools

Tenorio described Hopwood as among the "problem schools." The middle school has over a thousand enrollees this school year but PSS officials are convinced that its water usage is still too much.

"This is one of our problem schools... that's why we asked for CUC's assistance," Tenorio told the board, adding that CUC was asked to inspect every

school to make sure that water billings are accurate. PSS also asked CUC to immediately inform the system of "leaks" and other damage to help cut water expenditures.

Tenorio disclosed that many water meters in schools have not been replaced by CUC to date. An example, he said, is Marianas High School, which has "flat" figures every month.

For Marylou Ada, schools must also do their part and conduct individual monitoring.

Ada urged Education Commissioner Dr. Rita A. Sablan to remind school administrators of their "responsibility." The commissioner meets with school administrators every month during the principals' meeting.

Water rate

In Fiscal Year 2009, PSS' total water consumption amounted to \$788,340. This amount, however, was based on a lower rate being implemented that year.

The \$631,000 water billing for the first six months of this fiscal year alone is based on a higher rate and may still go up once the Commonwealth Public Utilities Commission approves CUC's request to increase water rates starting June this year.

Board member Herman T. Guerrero expressed concern about the rate CUC charges schools, which he described as "ridiculous because this is higher than the government and private sector."

For FY 2010, PSS projects utility cost to reach \$3.7 million, covering water, power, and wastewater service.

PSS disputes \$351K alleged discrepancy in CUC's billing

By **MONETH G. DEPOSA**
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Public School System is disputing \$351,000 in billings issued by the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. and both parties are continuing discussions to settle the discrepancy.

Education Commissioner Dr. Rita A. Sablan reported to the Board of Education yesterday that a meeting between CUC officials and PSS representatives took place recently and both want to reconcile the "difference" in their records.

CUC executive director Tony Muña confirmed the meeting and said that, although they initially approved a "settlement," a formal approval from the commissioner and the board is still needed.

"PSS had disputed certain billings for which CUC has reached agreement with PSS representatives. The agreement awaits the commissioner's approval and their board," Muna told *Saipan Tribune* in an e-mail.

Last Tuesday, Muña disclosed that PSS—one of its biggest clients—has outstanding accounts worth \$3.251 million as of January 2010. Due to the agency's financial straits, Muña said that CUC may disconnect service to all delinquent customers, including the central government, which owes \$1.3 million, and the Northern Marianas College, which owes \$498,602 as of January.

Acting PSS finance director Lorrie Grizzard cited PSS records, however, showing that

it only owes \$2.7 million as of April 15, 2010. She disclosed that it was only Thursday last week that PSS made a payment of \$600,000 to CUC.

Grizzard told *Saipan Tribune* that Muña must cite "factual" and "updated" figures.

Grizzard said that, as of February 2010, the reconciled item with CUC was \$3.587 million. The March billing for the system amounted to \$312,006. Because it made a recent payment of \$600,000 last week, the unpaid obligation must go down to \$2.7 million.

Grizzard disclosed that the debt is also expected to go down when PSS receives from the Department of Finance \$375,000 for utility payment.

The PSS official said it is the intention of PSS to pay all its obligations such as power consumption.

PSS financial consultant Ed Tenorio acknowledged yesterday that the difference in figures may be a result of the "slow transfer" of payment being processed through the Finance Department.

'Work in progress'

Press secretary Angel Demapan, said yesterday that the Executive Branch is working on addressing its \$1.361 million obligation to CUC.

"Addressing the Executive Branch's obligation to CUC is a work in progress. The administration is working diligently in identifying funding sources to fulfill its utilities obligation. Moreover, the administration

will also continue exploring options in terms of instituting a payment plan that would be most feasible for all parties involved," Demapan said in an e-mail yesterday.

The Northern Marianas College refused to comment on the issue pending verification of its data.

Both PSS and NMC depend on appropriations from the lo-

cal government to pay for expenses.

PSS began paying for its own utility consumption in

Fiscal Year 2007; the central government used to shoulder this expense.

In the past fiscal years, both

NMC and PSS experienced shortfalls in their utility budget as a result of declining appropriations from the local government.



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Villagomez's, Santoses' motion for release denied

» **Judge says arguments novel, but unsupported, overreaching**

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
ferdie.delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

An Ohio visiting judge denied yesterday a renewed bid by former lieutenant governor Timothy P. Villagomez, James A. Santos, and Joaquina V. Santos to be released on bail while their appeal is pending.

U.S. District Court for the NMI designated judge Mark W. Bennett described the three's arguments about the scope of the Sixth Amendment right to a public trial as "novel, but unsupported and overreaching."

"I find that the defendants

have failed to identify a 'substantial question'—i.e., a 'fairly debatable' issue—concerning a violation of their Sixth Amendment right to a public trial, that, if decided in their favor, would likely result in reversal, a new trial, or a substantially lower sentence," said Bennett.

Bennett is the U.S. District Court judge for the Northern District of Iowa. He is among the many designated judges to the U.S. District Court for the NMI following the retirement of Judge Alex R. Munson early this year.

Bennett began his 45-page opinion with a quote from Alan Lewis: "If at first you don't succeed, get a bigger hammer."

He said Judge Munson's earlier denial of the defendants' motions for release prompted Villagomez and the Santoses to rely on a "bigger hammer"—arguing that a recent U.S. Supreme Court decision, *Presley v. Georgia*, establishes that they have a fairly debatable claim that their Sixth Amendment right to a public

trial was violated when Munson refused to open to the general public unoccupied seats in the courtroom reserved for visiting students.



Bennett

Bennett said that if any court were to adopt this position that a trial judge must consider alternatives to excluding members of the general public from any unoccupied reserved seat in the courtroom, it would result in a wholesale reversal or rejection of decades of Supreme Court and lower

federal court precedent on the meaning of "closure" of a trial.

"It would also expand the scope of the Sixth Amendment right to a public trial far beyond any existing federal court holding," he said.

Bennett said it is one thing for a party to argue a novel question, but another thing entirely to stretch a constitutional provision so far beyond its scope under existing precedent.

He said to find a "substantial" or a "fairly debatable" question in this case would entice future defendants to do a legal "reach for the stars" on the theory that

the more extreme the argument, the greater their claim that it is "novel," thus warranting release pending appeal.

Bennett included in his opinion three photographs taken of the courtroom in the course of the Villagomez trial. A member of the clerk's office staff took the photographs, showing the courtroom's layout and position of the reserved seats.

In their joint renewed motion, lawyers for Villagomez and the Santos couple had argued that the three should be released pending the outcome of their appeals on the ground that that they were denied their right to a public trial.

This happened, the defense lawyers said, when Munson refused the defendants' request to open the seats reserved for students to the general public. They said this raises a substantial question of law or fact likely to result in reversal or an order for a new trial.

They pointed out that the recent U.S. Supreme Court decision in the *Presley v. Georgia* case held that a trial court violated a defendant's right to public trial when it excluded the public from the proceeding without a compelling justification, consideration of reasonable alternative measures, or appropriate findings.

In response, the prosecution asserted that there was no closure of the courtroom within the meaning of the *Presley* ruling. This is so, the prosecution said, because several rows of seating were open on a first-come, first-served basis.

The prosecution argued that Munson's decision to reserve a portion of the courtroom's seats for use by the media and students did not infringe on the defendants' right to a public trial, because every stage of the trial was open to the public.

Bennett said he finds that none of the defendants' arguments is remotely supported by the *Presley* ruling or any other precedent cited by the defendants.

"I find no reasonable reading of *Presley* could support the defendants' arguments that the trial judge was required to consider, in the absence of a 'closure' of the courtroom, whether there were alternatives to refusing the public access to unoccupied reserved seating," the judge said.

In short, Bennett said, the defendants present no "substantial question" concerning violation of their Sixth Amendment right to a public trial in the absence of a "closure," and no possibility of relief based on such a question.

Villagomez and the Santos couple are now in separate prisons in the U.S. mainland to serve their sentences—87 months for Villagomez and 60 months each for Santos couple—for their participation in the Rydlyme corruption scandal.

6 alien workers sue to collect Labor's \$136,096 award

Six alien workers have decided to sue their former employers to collect the \$134,096 in unpaid wages and unlawful deductions that the Department of Labor awarded them.

Yue Min Su, Yi Pan Wu, Shi Zhong Huang, Dan Yun Li, Xue Ming Xiao, and Li Ying Guo sued S&D Corp., owner of Monte Carlo, Harvest Mart, and Everbright Mart.

The plaintiffs, through counsel Joe Hill, asked the Superior Court to enforce La-

bor's administrative order dated May 4, 2009, against S&D Corp.

Hill asserted that by the terms of Labor's administrative order, S&D was found to be jointly liable in the full amount of the judgment.

"Defendant has failed and refused and continue to fail and refuse to pay plaintiffs any amount under the administrative order dated May 4, 2009 thus, necessitating this action to enforce the final agency

order," Hill said.

The lawyer said S&D filed a notice of appeal with the Labor Secretary on May 19, 2009. Hill said S&D did not serve plaintiffs or their counsel with a copy of the appeal.

Hill said the Labor Secretary did nothing within the 30-day time frame to confirm or modify the decision of Labor administrative hearing officer Deanne C. Siemer. (Ferdie de la Torre)

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Hillblom's son sues former counsel Lujan

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
ferdie_deltorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

One of the four DNA-proven children of the late business tycoon Larry Lee Hillblom of DHL fame is suing Guam lawyer David J. Lujan for allegedly inflating his contingency fee when Hillblom's fortune was still undergoing probate hearings.

Junior Larry Hillbroom, through counsel Mark B. Hanson, sued Lujan and 10 other unnamed co-defendants, for legal malpractice, breach of fiduciary duty, fraud, racketeering activity, civil conspiracy, and violations of California Business and Professions Code.

According to Hillbroom's complaint, filed Wednesday in federal court, Lujan and conspirators were not happy with the contingency fee capped by the Hillblom probate court so they took steps to increase the attorney's contingency fee from 38 percent to 56 percent without informing him.

Saipan Tribune tried but failed to get the side of Lujan.

Hillbroom, who is now based in Idaho, asked the U.S. District Court for the NMI to order the defendants to pay him damages, restitution, attorney's fees, and court costs.

He also asked the court to forfeit the fees allegedly wrongfully paid to and collected by the lawyers. He also demanded for an accounting and the disgorgement of any ill-gotten gains.

Hillbroom filed the original lawsuit against Lujan in the Central District of California in February 2009. The case was dismissed, though, after the court found it did not have personal jurisdiction over him. The California court stated that "Guam or the CNMI are alternative forums where plaintiff could potentially bring his claims against Lujan."

This prompted Hillbroom to file the lawsuit in the U.S. District Court for the NMI.

The approved heirship settlement provided that the Hillblom

estate would equally distribute 60 percent of its assets equally to the four qualified heirs, entitling Hillbroom to 15 percent of Hillblom's \$550 million estate.

The other heirs were Mercedita Feliciano, Jellian Cuartero, and Nguyen Be Lory. All four are Hillblom's DNA-proven children.

Hanson said that Hillbroom was a victim of Lujan's and his co-conspirators' extrinsic fraud.

"Conspirators' extrinsic fraud resulted in the Guam Guardianship Court's approval of the 56 percent fee increase without any real contest by either Junior or any representative legitimately protecting his interests and in violation of the Hillblom Probate Court's prior orders capping the attorneys' contingency fee in the middle 30 percent range," Hanson said.

Hanson added that the conspirators perpetrated additional fraud in the 56 percent retainer by backdating it to April 15,

Saipan casino, austerity bill on Marianas Agupa

Speaker Froilan C. Tenorio is scheduled to be a special guest on Marianas Agupa Chamorro Radio Talk show tomorrow, April 24, 2010, from 10am to 11am on Magic 100.3 FM. Topic will be the proposed Saipan Casino Control Act of 2010. Listeners of the show may call 234-5929 and participate

in the discussion.

Rep. Teresita M. Santos (I-Rota) will also be a special guest on the show, to discuss the austerity measure and her leadership in volunteering her pay cut, between 9:30am and 10am.

The Chamorro Talk Show Program is hosted by Glenn H. Man-

glona with a special guest host, former mayor Joseph S. Inos. The talk show airs every Saturday between 9am and 11am. Simultaneous Internet streaming via www.magic100radio.com will be available. For more information, e-mail marianasagupa@gmail.com. (PR)

1999, when they knew that they did not in fact execute the 56 percent retainer until well after that date.

The lawyer said that, on Nov. 10, 2006, an FBI agent met with Hillbroom in San Francisco and revealed to him for the first time that conspirators stole money from his recovery in the probate.

"Shortly after meeting with the FBI agent, Junior discovered for the first time that his ultimate recovery after the attorneys deducted their inappropriate fees and unsubstantiated costs from his approximately \$90 million settlement of the Hillblom Probate Case was only about \$12 million," Hanson said.

Hillbroom died in a plane crash off Anatahan waters on May 21, 1995. He left behind an estimated \$600 million to \$700 million assets. Since the Hillblom probate opened in 1995, eight children have filed heirship and paternity claims against the estate.

Two women filed late claims in 2001 and 2007, saying their three children are Hillblom's.

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Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

April 23, 1999

Power companies meet with Legislature

As the second round of independent review on the Saipan power project gets underway, companies vying to clinch the \$120 million contract have intensified their own campaign at the Legislature in an attempt to drum up support for their bids. But lawmakers claimed the meeting with prospective contractors is intended to clear misconceptions which have come up on the heels of the tight race to build the new 80-megawatt power plant on the island. Executives of the Marubeni Corp. of Japan and its US partner Sithe Energies, Inc. yesterday met briefly with some members of the House of Representatives, a day after officials of Enron International held a discussion with the same group.

Tinian's North Field turns into tent city

The US Immigration and Naturalization Service is considering keeping the "tent city" on Tinian for future Chinese nationals who will be caught entering Guam without proper documents, as it noted a growing trend in incursions by illegal immigrants into the neighboring island. While INS has yet to decide what to do with the temporary holding area in the Northfield in the island municipality once the Chinese illegals are deported, the plan to maintain it is "under consideration," according to Don Mueller of the public affairs office of the immigration office in Washington. Immigration officers in Guam have been grappling with the influx of illegal immigrants from mainland China in recent weeks and has found it difficult to find temporary shelter for these Chinese nationals while their papers are being processed.

April 23, 2001

Senate to hold own inquiry on CUC debt

The Senate will hold separate independent inquiry on the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation's outstanding loan from the Commonwealth Development Authority to shed light on the issue of breach of fiduciary responsibilities. Senate Vice President Thomas P. Villagomez said regardless of the invitation extended by House Committee on Public Utilities, Transportation and Communication Chair Rosiky Camacho to attend the CUC-CDA inquiry today, the Senate will still conduct its own investigation to determine the culpability of the utility corporation. However, Mr. Villagomez said the Senate PUTC will attend the inquiry today.

Economic woes dampen mood at 20th arts fest

The 20th Annual Flame Tree Arts Festival failed to generate as much following as it did in the past years. While thousands of local residents and foreign visitors trooped to the American Memorial Park during the three-day festival, this year's celebration failed to meet the number of people originally expected to take part in the Commonwealth's biggest gathering for arts and culture. The Arts Council anticipated to generate a crowd of at least 20,000 people for this year's festival that started Friday and concluded last night. Economic slowdown has been blamed as one of the factors which dampened the spending behavior of local residents and tourists.

April 23, 2002

CUC, DEQ, USGS team up to abate water crisis

As the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration disclosed the onset of El Nino around the world, the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation said it will work with the U.S. Geological Service and the Division of Environmental Quality in tapping new well sites to abate a water crisis. CUC Executive Director Bernard P. Villagomez said this amid statements issued by USGS hydrologist Robert Caruth that drought may occur in the Northern Marianas as a weather impact of El Nino, which was projected to mature in the coming months. The Saipan-based hydrologist said that drought can have a tremendous impact on Saipan's already inadequate water supply.

NMI to ride on coattails of US-Japan accord

To ensure that no momentum is lost, Washington Rep. Pete A. Tenorio said he intends to immediately follow up with the U.S. Department of Commerce on the recently signed agreement between the United States and Japan to ensure that the CNMI is not left out in the tourism expansion plans of the department. Tenorio, who left the Commonwealth yesterday afternoon for Washington D.C., said this will be one of his highest priorities once he arrives at the nation's capital. "I will be meeting with Commerce Undersecretary Douglas B. Baker to follow up on the [Tourism Export Expansion] Initiative and try to promote continuing involvement of the Commonwealth," said Tenorio.

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Man in spoon stabbing told to undergo psychiatric treatment

A man accused of trying to stab his relative with a spoon because he was hungry has been ordered to undergo psychiatric treatment.

Jack Petrus, 25, signed a plea agreement with the government, pleading guilty to disturbing the peace.

Superior Court associate judge David Wiseman accepted Petrus' guilty plea and sentenced him to six months' in prison, all suspended except for the time he had already served in jail. Petrus has been in jail for four months and 12 days.

Wiseman placed Petrus on probation and ordered him to pay a \$25 court assessment fee and probation fees.

"Defendant shall continue to follow the probation officer's instructions. These shall include, but not limited to, any recommendations for psychiatric treatment," the judge said.

He ordered the defendant to perform 100 hours of community work service.

Review hearing was set for June 23, 2010 at 9am.

The Office of the Attorney General charged Petrus with as-

sault with a dangerous weapon and disturbing the peace.

According to the plea agreement, on Dec. 4, 2009, the defendant disturbed the peace of Fuanny Kelulau at a residence in Koblerville Housing.

Police said investigation showed that Petrus had confronted Kelulau, saying he was hungry. The defendant then tried to stab the victim with a spoon.

Another relative took Petrus out of the residence. (*Ferdie de la Torre*)

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Volume XX, Issue No. 96Published daily at 2/F JP Center,
Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, CNMI
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EDITORIAL

Iceland volcano tests the limits of globalized world

For a while there, the world seemed so small, so easy to navigate. For some, cheap fares and plenty of flights meant a weekend trip to London or Paris was no big deal. A Texas microchip maker or Colombian rose exporter could fill overnight orders from European customers, thanks to a super-efficient global air cargo network.

Maybe we took such convenience for granted. That was before Mother Nature reminded us how easily a single volcano can ruin your whole day.

Iceland's Eyjafjallajökull volcano has been belching enormous quantities of ash into the sky since last week, bringing air traffic to a standstill across Europe. At least 100,000 flights had been canceled. Millions of travelers were scrambling to find their way home. British Prime Minister Gordon Brown dispatched the Royal Navy on Monday to three European ports to repatriate stranded Britons.

The airline industry alone is hemorrhaging an estimated \$200 million a day. The effects are particularly hard for American Airlines, which canceled 60 European flights Sunday and is scrambling to rebook or refund passengers scheduled to fly into 11 European cities directly affected by the ash plume. There's no way of calculating how extensive the economic fallout will be, nor can air-dependent businesses make long-term revisions of operations.

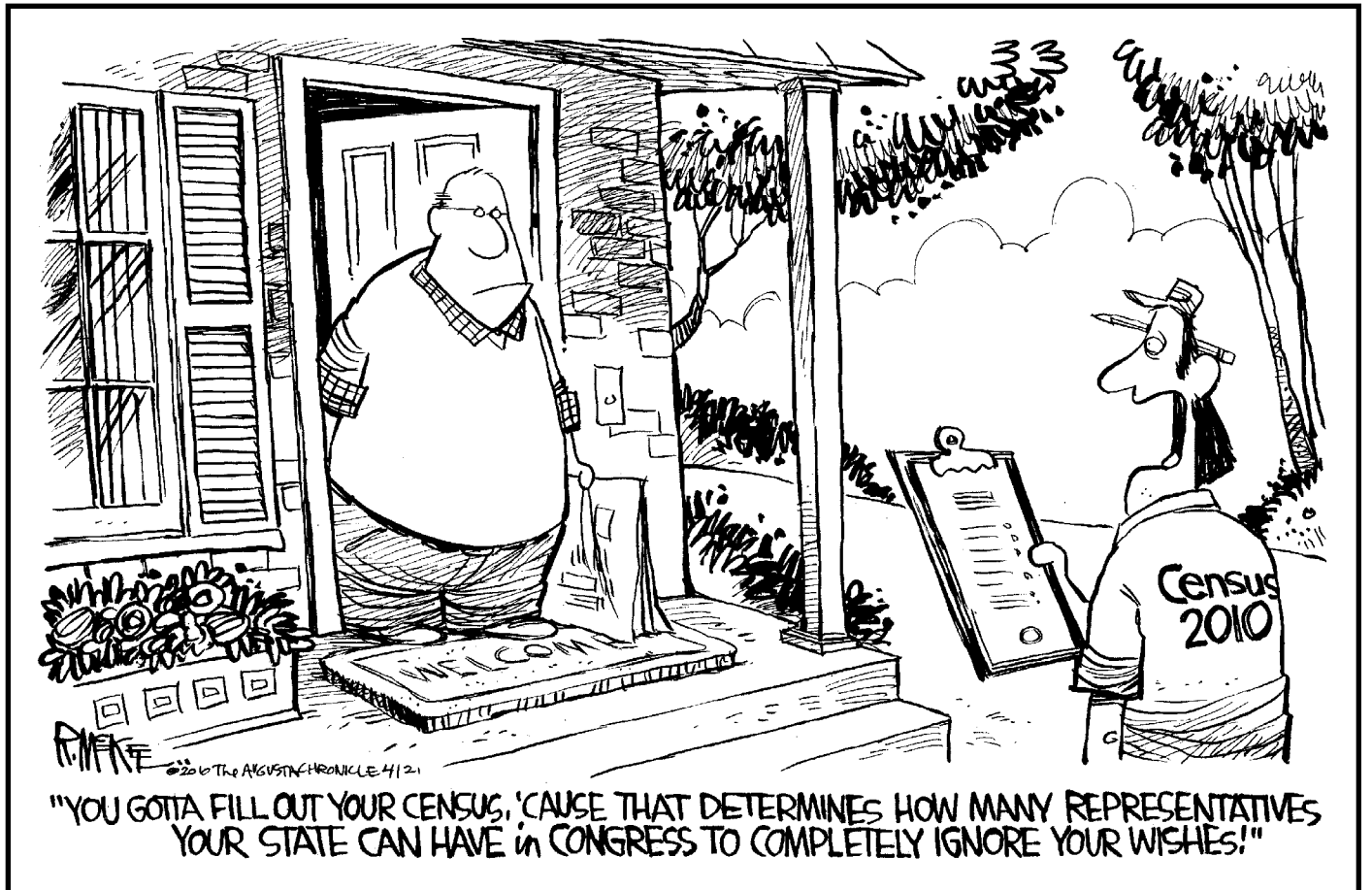
Europe's travelers are finding innovative ways to get around the air-travel restriction by taking ferries, trains and even taxis to their destinations. For stranded Americans, the prospects of getting home soon are dim. The U.S. Embassy in London offered little more than sympathy Monday: "We realize that the uncertainty about how long it will take to arrange travel and difficulty in getting reliable information have contributed to an already stressful set of circumstances."

American travelers are pretty much out of luck unless they can migrate to southern Europe, where limited flights are available, or catch a slow ride on a trans-Atlantic cruise liner.

The Iceland eruption is one small reminder of the awesome effect nature can have on our globalized world. It's worth noting that another volcanic eruption in Iceland, in 1783, lasted eight months and sent a huge cloud of toxic smoke across Europe that killed 10,000 people and altered global climate patterns.

An old margarine commercial in the 1970s used to warn us nightly, "It's not nice to fool Mother Nature." But perhaps we've just been fooling ourselves. Despite our high-tech mastery, we tend not to appreciate how tenuous our grip is on this planet's phenomenal natural forces. Like children, we prefer to ignore them as we run fast and play hard. Like any good mother, nature has its way of reminding us to slow down.

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China Trails 1: Dateline Yushu

This begins a China Trails series since I embarked this week on a 30-day journey to *Zhongguo* aka *Chunghua* that will be spent mostly on the tracks. Late last year, I took AmTrak's offer for a 30-day trek that took me around the US of A. A few reflections accompanied the journey that saw print in this page in a series we called *America by Rails*.

For the lunar New Year 2010, I ventured into *Dong Bei* (North-east) China on the direct inaugural Beijing-Saipan flight, and social commentaries on a loop to Manchuria and Shanghai were carried in this page as well. In that vein, we venture again into a sojourn in both geography and inner space.

But chronology and geographical sequence will have to take a back seat in this initial offering as China deals with another disaster, this time a devastating earthquake in Qinghai Province in the northern section of the Tibetan plateau, where both the Yangtze and Yellow Rivers originate. The quake centered in Yushu prefecture.

We write in Guilin, world-famous for its karst rock formations and the meandering Li River southward to Yangshuo that has inspired many works of art locally, nationally, and internationally. On this the 21st day of April, the country's red flag flutters over the downtown center at half staff in memoriam to the now more than 2,000 known deaths from the devastation that visited the Qinghai uplands. In a day of mourning, the nation showed a remarkable act of solidarity as across the country, three minutes of silence was observed from the highest council led by no less than Politburo chief Hu Jintao, among workers, students, company laborers and managers, political assemblies and military formations, with doves set free, yellow flowers strewn in land and water, gongs banged, sirens wailed, horns blared, and bells pealed. The daily televised coverage of expressed sentiments and shared assets continued and remained highlighted.

We planned a trek in 2008 to Chengdu, Sichuan to avoid the increased traffic and rocketing expense around the Beijing Olympics when an earthquake of 8.0 magnitude shook the western foothills of the Himalayas. With no local language proficiency, and toting a laptop with two SLR cameras, I would not have been one of the welcomed guests in the region, so I spent my time around the older and less costly environs of Pudong in Shanghai, instead.

I do recall how my colleagues in the media pounced on the alleged deficiencies in the construction of public edifices, particularly school buildings that resulted in the massive loss of lives among school children. That the area had not previously experienced anything of the magnitude of the 2008 quake is no consequence to the "moralistic" Western media and its propensity to focus on the "shoulds" rather than the "is" of any given situation; the blame game evolved into mercurial proportions to the chagrin of the locals who would have preferred to have been left alone with their grief.

There were those who took advantage of the misfortune to further ideological causes to embarrass Beijing. We are familiar with the recent Haiti quake and the Philippines' recent typhoon visitation to see how easily goodwill is transformed into abuse.

I remember a typhoon in Cebu Province in the late '80s. Our Rotary Clubs were able to mobilize local resources and foreign

By JAIME VERGARA
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Vergara is a regular contributor to the Saipan Tribune's Opinion Section.



assistance in aid of those in need. However, when slow moving boutique clothing was received, it immediately found its way into exclusive shops in exchange for long sitting warehoused winter relief clothes that were of no use to the locals. Top that with three brand new luxury cars surreptitiously consigned with the containers, and one can begin to understand how a chaotic situation easily lends itself to easy manipulation by the market supply-and-demand forces.

Thus, while the Chinese government was thankful in the Sichuan incident for the rapid and generous response of international donor agencies, it did not welcome the nosy intrusion of the foreign press into the internal fissures and affairs of the State. Indeed, the remembrance of the Great Sichuan Earthquake response a year later, after acknowledging acts of charity, focused on the contribution of the nation's local governments as well as the generosity of the global network of ethnic Chinese around the world, a fitting celebration to followed the glitter of the Beijing Olympics and precede the glimmer of pride of the 60th national day parade.

Lessons from the past now guide the actions of relief workers in Yushu. That the first relief worker casualty would be a Hong Kong volunteer only shows how rapid the response had been, and given the high altitude of the devastated region where 90 percent of the dwellings were flattened, and the infrastructure at bare minimum to begin with, unnecessary personnel on site would be a costly redundancy. Local authorities had been quick to point out that donations received will be used "quickly, fully and transparently," with regular public accountability and a special eye on malpractices of those who will deign to profit from the misfortune of others.

On donated assets, the local and provincial contributions outstrip that of the private sector 20 to 1, rendering the content of assistance to be more developmental rather than dole, and the manner of rendering a matter of rights and equity rather than goodwill and benevolence. At a time when the global recession is stagnating some economies, China is experiencing unprecedented growth fueled by the domestic sector that has started consuming its own products. China is thus within sound policy to encourage the utilization of its own assets to deal with the Yushu disaster.

Today, the empty shells of newly constructed buildings evident in the urban centers of China is indicative that a bubble is in the offing, but the massive infrastructure expenditure that China's ruling cabal of engineers has directed toward public works can only translate into a wider distribution of benefits to the population that could very well use it, in Yushu and the rest of *Chunghua*.

EDITORIAL POLICY

The *Saipan Tribune* welcomes comments on any article, column, editorial, or topic that may be of interest to the public. Letters to the editor must include the name, address, and contact number of the contributor. Letters that are critical in nature should focus on issues, not personalities. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

The office has got the man...

If you're part of Saipan's great cost cutting trend, you might be thinking about closing your office and betting your entire professional existence on a little laptop and a big cell phone bill. Is that a good idea?

I dunno. Maybe. Maybe not. I think much of it depends on what you're doing. You're probably not going to perform brain surgery on your living room couch (though I haven't read the fine print in the new health care bill), but in many cases modern technology can let a professional carry a practice without an office.

I have no wisdom on this topic. But I do have some observations. I used to maintain a retail office on Saipan for my economic consultancy, but when I started inflicting my presence on farther-flung places, in addition to the Commonwealth, I had to switch to a cyber-based approach.

As for my office, it was, indeed, a nice place to get my work done.

There really is something to be said for having your name on the door, your diploma on the wall, and your professional books all tidily arranged in neat little rows. Your work space can define your mind space, and that increases productivity.

Grasping at autism

By **JIM RAYPHAND**
SPECIAL TO THE SAIPAN TRIBUNE

The most truthful thing I can say about autism is that I really don't know very much about it. Sure I can reel off a few stats (among which is that 1 in every 110 babies will be born with autism spectrum disorder—a staggering figure by all accounts) and I can even list some common traits associated with people who have autism, but the truth of it is I, like so many others, am only grasping at the fringes of autism. At best I've been a curious observer and a wishful partner in the lives of a few families with children who have autism.

Despite having been declared by the U.S. Congress as a “national health crisis” in 2002, autism remains an elusive and multi-faceted phenomenon generating more questions than answers in the lives of numerous families worldwide. There is no known cure for autism. In fact, no one can say for sure what causes it, but “evidence has shown that early educational and behavioral intervention results in greatly improved outcomes for children with autism” (ASA—Autism Society of America Foundation). In other words, the earlier individuals with autism are identified and begin to receive appropriate services, the higher the likelihood that they will assimilate to and lead productive lives in our community as adults.

Locally, some parents with children on the autism spectrum have been teaming up and founded the Autism Society of the CNMI initially as a support group and more recently as a collective voice and central coordinator of activities to increase awareness about autism throughout the CNMI community. Their achievements to date include a variety of sponsored activities for the public, the passage of local legislation and a pooling of multiple resources in support of their efforts, but none are more significant than the simple act of letting parents and other family members of children with autism know that they are not alone. While the responsibility and the day-to-day challenges of raising their respective children rests squarely on said parents and families, at least now they can take some comfort and lessons from others who either have or are living with the effects of autism in their family—a luxury that comes from years of dedicated, unyielding efforts of a handful of parents who simply refuse to allow their children to fall through the systemic cracks. Nobody feels more strongly about the rights and needs of children with autism or disabilities in general than their own parents, period.

When individual efforts fail, NMPASI, the state-designated agency for protection and advocacy services to individuals with disabilities in the CNMI, may be of assistance and is a good stepping stone toward successful self-advocacy. As a non-profit organization which receives federal funding “to protect the civil, legal and human interests of individuals with disabilities,” NMPASI is in a unique position to provide support for people with disabilities and their families in four primary ways including but not limited to (1) providing direct representation, (2) conducting/facilitating disability-related trainings, (3) disseminating disability-related information to the public and (4) offering information and referral services to members of the community at large. Above all else, we believe that disabilities are a natural part of the human condition and people with disabilities have a right to be free from *abuse, neglect and discrimination*. As members of our community, they are entitled to *appropriate education, health care services*, and opportunities to make *informed decisions* about their own lives. For more, please contact the NMPASI office at (670) 235-7273/4 [voice] / 235-7278 [tty] / 235-7275 [fax] or contact us online at www.nmpasi.com. For the Autism Society of the CNMI, feel free to call 234-8803/4 or e-mail as_cnmi@yahoo.com.

Besides, a small, one-man-show little office is a proud American tradition. Remember the old private investigator movies of the film noir days?

The name is Stephens, sweetheart, and when you put your lips together to whistle, I just knew you needed an economist...

On the other hand, I remember a contemporary cartoon that used to run (maybe still does, I don't know) in the funny papers: One character was a stay-at-home dad who would work at his computer, unshaven, clad in his pajamas, clutching a cup of coffee. He was a soft, spongy, jellyfish of a man. Like it or not, that's the image a lot of people have of kitchen-table freelancers; slovenly losers who like to sleep late, and who just couldn't muster the self-discipline to put on a pressed shirt and show up at the office by 9am.

But there is, of course, an opposite side to that coin, given that a lot of work, a whole lot, is done by home-based freelancers these days. I'm all in favor of that.

And, for those inclined in the home-based direction, I'll also note that I ran across some unexpected drawbacks to having a retail office.

One was that friends, or strangers, would drop by, stay for a chat... and, well, keep on chatting. I'm guilty of doing this to other people, I'll admit: I'll get a wild hair to see somebody, usually just to say hello, and so I ambush them at their office when they've probably got work to do and they wish I'd drop dead. So I'm not claiming any moral high ground on this. But I'm not saying I liked getting mired in the situation, either, when I'm the one trapped in the trenches.

While I'm nursing minor grievances, let me bellyache about this: My photocopy machine. Half the Commonwealth seemed to want to drop by and “make a few copies.” So I'd get a phone call, “Hey, Ed, you gonna' be at your office at, say, two-o'clock tomorrow? I'd like to make a few copies of something.”

Letters to the Editor

Thoughts and questions

Every day we wake up, we search for jobs, and potential way of subsistence living. Days, months, and years for some of us searching, and every attempt we make goes back to questionable thoughts of losing more than gaining less. Now that I am unemployed, I see, hear and experience the needs of these unemployed families.

They tried farming, and problems encountered during their attempts are thieves harvesting their produce, unaffordable water billing, competitive market, lack of manpower, not enough money to purchase seeds, supplies and security system to pay for additional manpower, and unavailable financial resources (not qualified to applied for loans or grants).

When we look for jobs in government, it is already filled even before it is announced. In the private sector, we can only qualify for low salary position.

When we go fishing or hunting we cannot find anymore abundance in the resources we used to have. Why? Because experts from other countries are stealing our resources and our lawmakers are doing nothing to penalize these individuals who have no respect for our land.

So what is our alternative? They say education, yes, to some who doesn't need help to find their educational needs, but to those who need help in finding a career, financial aid, housing, transportation allowance, and others, it is a big problem. So, what is this person's solution? Sell drugs, steal, gamble or do other illegal ways of making money, just so they can earn a living for their families, which leads them to more problems.

And for us who go to school, I question my thoughts every single day. Where do all our money go, all the taxes, government insurance, fuel charge and more. I wonder, if we ask CUC to print how much they collect monthly on fuel charge if they'll print it. I wonder if they'll print how much our government owes them? I wonder if they'll print what they are using our fuel charge money on? Don't we have the right to know? On health insurance, I wonder if they can give us a statement of what we give them and how much is for us and how much is for them and what it is for? On tax money, I wonder how much goes to pay for the salary of each government employee? I wonder what they are purchasing with the rest of the money? I also wonder, what will happen if the Senate will hold a budget hearing and a copy of last year's expenditures are made available to the community to read, along with the new one? If this would help control these lawmakers from lying that they are doing their jobs?

Winnie Atalig
San Jose, Tinian

By ED STEPHENS

Special to the Saipan Tribune

Ed is a pilot, economist, and writer. He holds a degree in economics from UCLA and is a former U.S. naval officer. His column runs every Friday. Visit Ed at TropicalEd.com and SaipanBlog.com.



Yeah, sure. But, of course, at 1:50 tomorrow, something would crop up and I'd be on my way to Rota, and I wouldn't be able to make it to my office, and I'd get chastised for not showing up.

And, reciprocally, people would make appointments to show up at my office, and they wouldn't show up; not a big deal, but it would always happen at the one hour in the entire month where I had some utterly deep desire to be somewhere else. I'm telling you, my anti-like existence, being steered by every random gust and buffeted by every minor flood, is mighty humble.

So, while a man has got his office, it may be that the office has got the man.

As for me, my tidy radius of work from Saipan to Guam turned into a hyperactive vector shooting to Asia, then beyond. From humble little ant...to humble little ant with jetlag. So I had to be more nimble, and a physical office didn't make sense. However, I miss my little office, and I'm racking my brain to figure out a way to make it sensible again.

Such was my experience. I'm happy to share it with you. By the way, if you're not too busy, I'd like to ask a favor: Are you going to be around on Monday, at, say, 3 o'clock? Great! I'd like to make a few copies...

Response to Mr. Sablan

When I was born my father and mother owned 560 acres of beautiful, level, rich, wheat farming land in northeastern Montana. It was located on the south side of the Missouri River where the north-east direction of the river bends and goes southeast to the Gulf of Mexico—an area that trapped snakes moving north. It was known as Rattlesnake Alley.

My mother was very sick after I was born so my father kept me on the farm with him while my other brothers and sisters lived with my mother in the nearby town of Wolf Point to attend school. As soon as I was big enough to ride a horse my father would put me up on an old white horse that we called Snowball. Snowball was my daycare center. I rode her all day long while my father farmed the land.

I was 7 years old when my father stopped farming and rented the land to other farmers. After he died my family decided to sell the land—against my wishes and that of my brothers. To please our five sisters, we finally agreed to sell the land.

Gone forever was our home and our cultural upbringing! Now the land has gone up so much in price that it would be very difficult to buy it back—if it were for sale because now it belongs to someone else—even though it is still called “the Keiper Place”!

You are so right, Mr. Sablan: Please don't let the local people sell their land to anyone except a Chamorro.

If Article XII is taken away and outsiders buy the land, your beautiful island could belong to someone else—and you and your future generations might be without a home. Don't sell.

Franklin Keiper
Mayer, Arizona

Where's the bacon?






After reading www.opencongress.org, the record shows that Kilili hasn't done anything. Kilili, you introduced 16 bills and co-sponsored 60 bills and voted 98 percent with the Democrat majority yet absolutely zero of your bills have been passed into law. What's the use of blindly following a party when they don't do anything to help the CNMI? Wake up and smell what's cooking because it's not bacon! We don't even have bread. It's my opinion that you are just riding on other people's work, especially those federal grants that are being handled by the local government departments and agencies. Kilili, stop misrepresenting that you have accomplished anything. Zero passage of your bills by your own majority party only means that you can't even accomplish anything on your own two hands. Slow down on the hype and check yourself before you wreck yourself.

Chris Sablan
Dandan, Saipan

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY
				
Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 15 to 20 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 15 to 20 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲87° ▼77°	▲87° ▼77°	▲87° ▼77°	▲87° ▼77°	▲87° ▼77°

Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Thundershowers	▲85 ▼78
Palau	Showers	▲85 ▼78
Yap	Thunderstorms	▲87 ▼77
Chuuk	Cloudy	▲82 ▼75
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	▲84 ▼79
Kosrae	Thunderstorms	▲85 ▼81
Majuro	Partly Sunny	▲87 ▼79

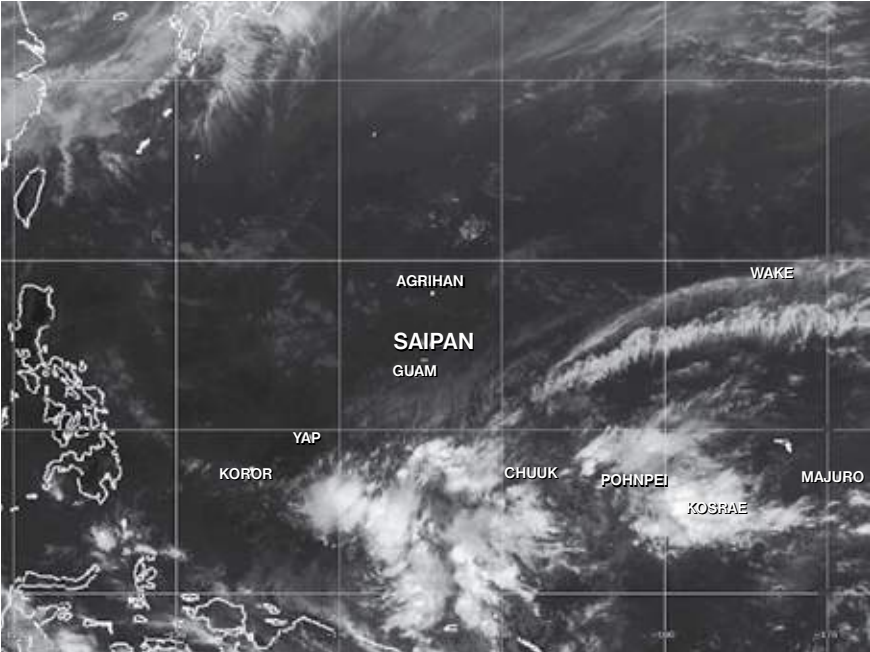
Around The Globe

Auckland	Mostly Sunny	▲69 ▼62
Beijing	Mostly Sunny	▲70 ▼46
Hong Kong	Partly Cloudy	▲71 ▼64
Honolulu	Partly Cloudy	▲83 ▼71
London	Partly Cloudy	▲62 ▼43
Los Angeles	Showers	▲61 ▼48
Manila	Thundershowers	▲91 ▼77
Melbourne	Showers	▲66 ▼60
Miami	Mostly Sunny	▲84 ▼69
New York	Partly Cloudy	▲69 ▼46
Osaka	Cloudy	▲57 ▼47
Paris	Partly Cloudy	▲65 ▼41
Pusan	Partly Cloudy	▲60 ▼45
Rome	Rain	▲66 ▼53
Salem	Partly Cloudy	▲64 ▼37
San Francisco	Partly Cloudy	▲61 ▼52
Seoul	Showers	▲58 ▼42
Tokyo	Showers	▲55 ▼48
Washington, DC	Mostly Sunny	▲75 ▼49

Tides

Saipan Harbor				
3:39 AM	Today	High Tide:	1.8 Feet	
9:30 AM	Today	Low Tide:	1.0 Feet	
2:17 PM	Today	High Tide:	1.6 Feet	
9:22 PM	Today	Low Tide:	0.1 Feet	

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, THURSDAY, APRIL 22, 2010

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A near-equatorial trough stretches southeastward from 5N138E through a circulation centered at 2N144E to end at EQ146E. Converging winds near the trough and circulation are triggering scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms southeast of Koror and Yap in an area bounded by a line from EQ144E to 5N138E to 10N144E to 7N148E to EQ151E back to EQ144E. Trade-wind convergence is generating scattered showers and a few thunderstorms just east of Chuuk and over Pohnpei and Kosrae within 175 miles of a line from 9N154E to 5N164E. Similar weather is also occurring just south of Majuro within 100 miles of a line from 5N164E to 5N180.

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	5:58 AM	6:33 PM
Saturday	5:58 AM	6:33 PM
Sunday	5:57 AM	6:33 PM
Monday	5:57 AM	6:33 PM
Tuesday	5:56 AM	6:34 PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	1:31 PM	1:33 AM
Saturday	2:29 PM	2:18 AM
Sunday	3:26 PM	3:01 AM
Monday	4:23 PM	3:44 AM
Tuesday	5:21 PM	4:28 AM

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PICTURES

- ISLAND SNAPSHOTS Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.
- BIRTHDAY GREETINGS A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
- BUSINESS Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
- SAMUT SARI Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
- TRAVELOGUE Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.

CAMPUS BULLETIN

Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

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For pictures:

- Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.
- Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
- Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
- For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

For announcements:

- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when),

the name of contact person, and a phone number.

- Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

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- Drop off: 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan
- To check if contributions are received, call (670) 235-6397, 235-2440, 235-8747

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- The *Saipan Tribune* will decide how often community announcements are going to be published.
- For Travelogue, the *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to choose which pictures to publish.

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SUBSCRIPTION Published Monday to Saturday, *Saipan Tribune* offers door-to-door on-island delivery at an annual rate of \$160. For additional subscription information, call (670) 235-8747 or 235-2769, or fax 235-3740.

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF APRIL 7, 2010

DEPARTURES	ARRIVALS
ROTA (ROP)-GUAM	GUAM-ROTA (ROP)
C09597 5:00am 5:30am 1, 5	C09598 6:30pm 7:00pm 4, 7
SAIPAN-GUAM	GUAM-SAIPAN
C09317 4:25am 5:15am Daily	C09316 2:45am 3:35am Daily
C09313 8:30am 9:20am Daily	C09596 7:00am 7:50am Daily
C09601 12:10pm 1:00pm 1, 4, 5, 7	C09600 10:05am 10:55am Daily
C09603 3:05pm 3:55pm Daily	C09602 1:40pm 2:30pm 1, 4, 5, 7
C09605 6:35pm 7:25pm Daily	C09604 5:10pm 6:00pm Daily
C09599 9:35pm 10:25pm Daily	C09606 8:10pm 9:00pm Daily
SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)	NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN
DL287 5:55am 8:35am Daily	DL290 10:00am 2:35pm Daily
DL297 3:35pm 6:15pm Daily	DL298 10:30am 3:05pm Daily
DL289 4:35pm 7:15pm Daily	DL288 8:40pm 1:15am+1 Daily
SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)	BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN
OZ608 3:20am 6:50am 1, 5	OZ607 9:00pm 2:20am+1 4, 7
SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)	SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN
OZ604 2:20am 6:10am 1	OZ605 9:00am 2:30pm 2, 4, 6, 7
OZ604 2:50am 6:30am 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7	OZ603 7:40pm 1:10am+1 7
OZ606 3:30pm 7:00pm 2, 4, 6, 7	OZ603 8:10pm 1:40am+1 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)	SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN
FM844 2:50am 5:40am 2, 6	FM843 7:15pm 1:50am+1 1, 5
SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN)	GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN
CZ3008 3:30am 6:40am 2, 6	CZ3007 7:30pm 2:40am+1 1, 5
SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)	MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN
OZ604/701 2:20am 11:25am 1 via ICN	OZ704/605 12:10am 2:30pm 2, 4, 6, 7
OZ604/701 2:50am 11:25am 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN	via ICN
OZ606/703 2:20am 11:00pm 1 via ICN	OZ706/607 3:35am 2:20am+1 4, 7 via PUS
OZ606/703 2:50am 11:00pm 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN	C0890/9606 10:55am 9:00pm 6 via GUM
OZ608/705 3:20am 12:10am+1 1, 5 via PUS	OZ702/603 12:45pm 1:10am+1 7 via ICN
C09317/891 4:25am 9:45am 6 via GUM	OZ702/603 12:45pm 1:40am+1 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
C09603/893 3:05pm 9:10pm 3, 5 via GUM-Palau	PR110/C09596 10:00pm 7:50am+1 1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM
C09603/933 3:05pm 8:40pm Daily via GUM	C0892/9596 10:10pm 7:50am+1 3, 5 via GUM-Palau
SAIPAN-HONG KONG	HONG KONG-SAIPAN
OZ604/721 2:20am 11:45am 1 via ICN	OZ724/605 12:30am 2:20pm 2, 4, 6, 7 via ICN
OZ604/721 2:50am 11:45am 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN	OZ750/605 1:00am 2:20pm 2, 4, 6, 7 via ICN
OZ606/749 3:30pm 11:00pm 4, 6, 7 via ICN	OZ722/603 1:15pm 1:10am+1 7 via ICN
C09603/909 3:05am 9:30pm 1, 5 via GUM	OZ722/603 1:15pm 1:40am+1 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
Editor's Note: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); CZ: China Southern; CO: Continental; FM: Shanghai Airlines; PR: Philippine Airlines; DL: Delta Airlines; OZ: Asiana ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)	C0910/9596 10:35pm 7:50am+1 1, 5 via GUM

FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency	Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
Guam-Rota				FRE 113	11:40am	11:50am	Daily
FRE 100 7:00am 7:30am Daily				FRE 115	1:00pm	1:10pm	Daily
Rota-Saipan				FRE 117	2:30pm	2:40pm	Daily
FRE 100 7:50am 8:20am Daily				FRE 119	4:00pm	4:10pm	Daily
Saipan-Rota				FRE 121	4:40pm	4:50pm	Daily
FRE 200 9:00am 9:30am Daily				FRE 123 *	5:40pm	5:50pm	Daily
Rota-Guam				FRE 125 *	6:00pm	6:10pm	Daily
FRE 200 9:50am 10:15am Daily				Tinian-Saipan w/ connecting flights to Rota or Guam**			
Guam-Rota				FRE 102	7:05am	7:15am	Daily
FRE 300 4:00pm 4:30pm Daily				FRE 104	7:50am	8:00am	Daily
Rota-Saipan				FRE 106**	8:20am	8:30am	Daily
FRE 300 4:50pm 5:25pm Daily				FRE 108**	9:00am	9:10am	Daily
Saipan-Rota				FRE 110	10:00am	10:10am	Daily
FRE 400 6:00pm 6:30pm Daily				FRE 112	11:05am	11:15am	Daily
Rota-Guam				FRE 114	12:00pm	12:10pm	Daily
FRE 400 6:45pm 7:15pm Daily				FRE 116	1:30pm	1:40pm	Daily
Saipan-Tinian				FRE 118	2:50pm	3:00pm	Daily
FRE 101 6:45am 6:55am Daily				FRE 120**	4:20pm	4:30pm	Daily
FRE 103 7:30am 7:40am Daily				FRE 122**	5:00pm	5:10pm	Daily
FRE 105 8:00am 8:10am Daily				FRE 124	6:05pm	6:15pm	Daily
FRE 107 8:40am 8:50am Daily				FRE 126	6:20pm	6:30pm	Daily
FRE 109* 9:10am 9:20am Daily							
FRE 111* 10:45am 10:55am Daily							



NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any PTI cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

IT&E to stop commenting on merits of \$90M federal grant request

Commerce gets praise for living within its means

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

House Ways and Means Committee chairman Rep. Ramon S. Basa (Cov-Saipan) commended yesterday Commerce Secretary Michael Ada for doing everything in his power for the department to live within its means despite the budget cuts.

The committee continued yesterday its Fiscal Year 2010 budget hearing.

Commerce is the second agency to meet with the committee, which is also set to meet today with the Department of Public Works, and four other agencies next week for their budget proposals.

"I really commend Commerce Secretary Ada for recognizing the seriousness of our financial problems. As secretary, it's incumbent upon him to work with whatever budget allocated to him. He wished he could get more but there's none. I really admire that," Basa said.

Ada, in an interview right after testifying before the committee, said Commerce's proposed budget was some \$1.2 million, but they reduced this to 25 percent, ending up with some \$904,000.

The Fitial administration's proposal, however, is \$1.08 million and, with a 25 percent cut, this ended up at \$865,000.

Ada said Commerce always observes a 25 percent budget reduction given the government's finances.

"I hope that my colleagues will follow suit," he said, referring to the need to live within their means.

He said it's his job as department head to figure out how to stay within an allotted budget. Commerce has 32 personnel.

"I will be operating on an \$865,000 budget for my entire department in 2011. We try to live within our means. We try to leverage any grant opportunity we have to use folks away from locally funded positions. We are looking at collapsing divisions so that I won't need as many people in the division where they kind of having overlapping responsibilities," he told *Saipan Tribune*.

He cited as an example the area of enforcement. "If I can have my enforcement officers enforce everything that I'm mandated to enforce versus just alcohol, tobacco or just weights and measures," he added.

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

IT&E said yesterday that it will no longer comment on the merits of its second application for federal grants amounting to some \$90 million also for a broadband project.

The telecommunications firm recently received \$8 million in federal stimulus grant to improve broadband infrastructure in the CNMI and Guam, which GTA TeleGuam questioned.

"These past days of public feuding between companies, their executives, and even public figures, has driven a wedge between many people, and may tarnish our island's reputation as a friendly and open investment destination," IT&E said in a

statement yesterday.

Because of this, IT&E has decided it will no longer comment on the merits of its pending application for round two on another broadband project.

"There is simply too much passion in the air for many to view the issues objectively," it said.

IT&E said if there are people who believe that IT&E's round two application, for whatever reason, should be rejected by the U.S. National Telecommunications and Information Administration which awarded the round one grant, then they should make representations directly to NTIA as part of its open grant review process.

"For the record, NTIA is the designated federal author-

ity formed with the purpose of considering the merits of any application. It has absolutely nothing to gain by favoring one company over another, and will judge IT&E's application after weighing all the facts at hand," it said.

IT&E said it regrets the anguish its round two proposal has caused some quarters, but it remains "convinced that such an award would create jobs and improve broadband services not only for the people of Guam, but also for everyone in the economically challenged islands of Saipan, Tinian and Rota."

"We thank our customers and friends for their support in these past few days, and hope that all parties concerned can return to a degree of civility that has char-

acterized the business community of Guam not too long ago," IT&E added.

Guam Gov. Felix P. Camacho earlier called for the terminations of GTA TeleGuam chief executive officer Dan Moffat and Daniel J. Tydingco, executive vice president of external affairs, for questioning broadband stimulus funding for Guam.

GTA TeleGuam's principal owner issued a statement saying that they stand by the current management team and employees on Guam.

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MAY 1, 8, 15, 22 & 29, 2010

Saturday, May 1, 2010

6:00 p.m.	Nicollette Lopez (National Anthem)
6:30 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.	Tropikool Blendz Band
7:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.	Pua Hinano
8:30 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.	Maika'i Band
9:00 p.m. - 9:30 p.m.	Chamolinian Warriors
9:30 p.m. - 10:00 p.m.	Inatuas Cultural Dancers

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| 3. Hyatt Regency Hotel Saipan | 11. Hula Girl/3's |
| 4. Pacific Islands Club Saipan | 12. Thai House Restaurant |
| 5. Canton Restaurant | 13. Poon's Restaurant |
| 6. Saipan World Resort | 14. Ty & Tia |
| 7. Sierra Pearl Shakes | 15. Palms Resort Hotel |
| 8. Capricciosa & Tony Roma's | |

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- Northern Marianas Bartender Association

For more information contact the
Marianas Visitors Authority
at telephone numbers (670) 664-3200/01.



2010 CNMI TOURISM MONTH "Tourism is Everybody's Business"

Proclamation Signing April 29, 2010

Lt. Governor Eloy Inos will officially declare the month of May 2010 as CNMI Tourism Month with a formal proclamation signing ceremony at 10:30 a.m. at the Office of the Governor on Capitol Hill. The Marianas Visitors Authority and our industry partners invite the public participate in the activities of the Tourism Month celebration.

Tourism Industry Clean up Day April 26, 2010

Marianas Visitors Authority and the Japan Saipan Travel Association and Korean Tour Association of Saipan invite the community to join our Tourism Industry cleanup to help beautify the Garapan tourism district in preparation for Japan's Golden Week holiday. The clean up will be from 6-8 a.m., beginning at the American Memorial Park's parking lot. Free Tourism Month t-shirts will be given to the first 100 volunteers!

"Hafa Adai Tirow" Spirit Island Wear Fridays

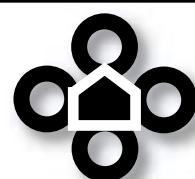
Every Friday in May is Hafa Adai Tirow Spirit Island Wear day! Show your island pride and culture by wearing island attire or local traditional wear. Share your favorite islandwear shots of yourself, your friends, co-workers, and family on Facebook at "Hafa Adai Tirow Spirit Islandwear in the Northern Mariana Islands."

Taste of the Marianas International Food Festival & Beer Garden

This highly anticipated weekly celebration will be held every Saturday in May at American Memorial Park from 6-10 p.m. The event will feature delicious local and international cuisine sold by over 15 hotel and local restaurants. Enjoy the talent of local and international performers with live entertainment all evening. The event will feature nightly competitions, as well as trivia questions aimed at promoting tourism awareness.

Radio Tourism Trivia

Call in with the correct answer for your chance to win tokens for the Taste of the Marianas and Tourism Month T-shirts. "Did you Know?" and "Fun Facts about Tourism in the Northern Marianas" will be aired regularly throughout the month on 103.9 FM KZMI, Power 99, and 97.9 FM The KAT.



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Beautify CNMI to honor 2 individuals, 2 groups with awards

THIS SATURDAY SABALU FARMERS MARKET

(Garapan Fishing Base across
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April 24, 2010

Fresh Local Produce
& Local Dishes
6:00am - 12:00pm

Also visit Farmers Market on Tuesday!
from 3pm - 9pm (across Kristo Rai)



Beautify CNMI will announce on Saturday, April 24, the winners of its annual Beautify CNMI Champion and Beautify CNMI Steward Awards. The announcement will be made during a ceremony at the 29th Annual Flame Tree Arts Festival main stage at 10am.

"This is the fourth year we are giving out awards to recognize the individuals, organizations, and businesses that have proven to be leaders in volunteering and advocating for the environment in the Commonwealth," said Beautify CNMI co-founder Cinta Kaipat.

This year Beautify CNMI will recognize an individual and an organization/business in each award category. The four award winners have been invited to accept their awards.

The Environmental Champion award recognizes a person or group that exemplifies the Beautify CNMI spirit. Those qualities include volunteerism, cooperation, in-

novation, creativity and the ability to infect others with the Beauty Virus. The Environmental Champion is a role model for others to follow.



They bring environmental issues to the forefront of public consciousness. They make things happen and effect change.

The Environmental Steward award recognizes a person or group that leads the community

in activities that help protect our environment in a variety of ways. This individual or group has demonstrated the need to

take pride in our islands and to take care of the place we all call home. They serve as an example for others, especially the next generation, to follow.

Beautify CNMI hands out the Steward and Champion Awards each year in Spring. Nominations are taken from the community at-large and the Beautify CNMI committee chairs select winners. Past winners include Aqua Resort Club, Friends of the Mariana Islands, Marites Castillo, Kathy

Yuknavage, Captain Carl Brachear, Adam Sablan, Katie Busenkell, Rose Callier, Mike Tripp, Marianas Dive, Nava Khorram, Max Aguon, Paseo de Marianas Promoters, and Bree Reynolds, Tan Holdings, Laurie Peterka, Ken Kramer, and Friends of the Marianas Trench Monument.

Beautify CNMI is a coalition of concerned citizens, private groups, and government entities united to enhance the CNMI's natural beauty and foster community pride in its residents and visitors. The coalition was a recipient of a 2007 EPA Environmental Award and received a Certificate of Commendation from the United States Congress in 2009. For more information visit them online at <http://www.beautify-cnmi.org>. (**Beautify CNMI**)

Tayag protests wrong ballot number for Bandila partylist

Bishop Nilo S. Tayag has protested the Philippine Commission on Election's negligence

on the ballot number of the Bandila partylist, saying the mistake could disenfranchise Filipino absentee voters abroad.

"Erroneously assigning No. 112 instead of the correct No. 119 will definitely disenfranchise supporters of Bandila Partylist. This is tantamount to sabotage of the will of the overseas Filipino workers, expats and other Filipinos globally," said Tayag.

He insisted that this situation must be rectified at once by the government agencies concerned to prevent injustice against Bandila.

"The administration must show impartiality in these cases to show that true democratic institutions still exist in our country," said Tayag.

Tayag, a consecrated Bishop of the Iglesia Filipina Independiente, is a representative of the Bandila partylist, one of the many partylist groups running in this May's election for a position in the Philippine Congress. (**PR**)



Tayag

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Saipan Tribune

Puppies, kittens, dogs up for adoptions

Pet Assistance and Welfare Services has some cute and healthy puppies, kittens, and adult dogs that are up for adoption. If you are interested in these animals, call Paradise Island Animal Hospital at 234-9669, PAWS at 285-PAWS, or Katie at 256-0243. Alternatively, if you are looking to adopt a new pet, check out the PAWS Web site at www.paws-saipan.org.



Noni

Noni is a beautiful, fawn-looking female dog that was recently rescued and is in need of a foster home or permanent home. Noni is about eight months old, de-wormed, and well-tempered. She gets along well with other dogs, but seems to be afraid of cats.

Puppies

PAWS has numerous healthy puppies that are up for adoption through Paradise Island Animal Hospital. Two pups (one featured in the picture) are about eight weeks old and de-wormed. Both are female—one is black and tan, while the other is tan with black and white markings.

PAWS also has six newly

rescued puppies that are up for adoption. All six are black with various markings. The pups are about six weeks old, which means they will require some attention and extra TLC for the next couple of weeks.

If you are interested in meeting one of these pups, swing by Paradise Island Animal Hospital on Middle Road (across the street from Hollywood Video).

Momma

"Of the many female dogs that we have rescued over the years, this female dog is one of the sweetest," said PAWS president Katie Busenkell.

Momma was found in the Papago area, abandoned when her owner moved to Guam. She was also pregnant with eight pups. All but two of the pups have been adopted, and now PAWS seeks a good, loving, and responsible home for Momma.

Momma is black and white, with some tan spots, and enormous



ears! She is gentle, friendly, and loving with other animals and children. Momma would make an ideal companion for a single person looking for a little indoor company. If you are interested in meeting Momma, visit Paradise Island Animal Hospital on Middle Road.



Kittens

PAWS has three cute kittens up for adoption! All three kittens, from different litters, are thought to be about 6-7 weeks old. They have been de-wormed and treated for fleas.

mal Hospital (234-9669).

Found: Two adult dogs
PAWS is looking for the owner(s) of two adult dogs that were reported as found in Papago yesterday afternoon. One dog is white

with a black studded collar. The second dog is brown and wearing a red collar.

If you or someone you know is missing one or two dogs that fit the above description, call Katie at 256-0243. (PAWS)

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<p>2001 Honda Prelude STOCK # 1C005458 \$8,995^{00*} (SOLD AS IS)</p>	<p>2004 Honda Element EX AWD STOCK # 4L003130 \$14,995^{00*}</p>	<p>2005 Ford Freestyle SEL STOCK # 5GA03037 \$15,995^{00*}</p>
<p>2005 Nissan Sentra SE STOCK # 6L572971 \$10,995^{00*} (SOLD AS IS)</p>	<p>2005 Nissan Pathfinder LE 4WD STOCK # 5C729443 \$19,995^{00*}</p>	<p>2006 Ford E-350 XLT STOCK # 6DA49114 \$18,995^{00*}</p>
<p>Claudia T. Adriano Sales Consultant Visit or call 234-5562 Ext.123</p>	<p>2006 Nissan Rogue SL STOCK # 8W016494 \$20,995^{00*}</p>	<p>2006 Nissan Pathfinder LE 4WD STOCK # 6C629879 \$23,995^{00*}</p>

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CNMI community invited to help celebrate Tourism Month in May

The top industry of the Northern Mariana Islands gets top recognition in May, as the community prepares to celebrate Tourism Month.

The community is invited to help welcome the month—and the largest influx of visitors anticipated during Japan's Golden Week holiday—by joining the tourism industry cleanup on Monday, April 26, from 6am to 8am, beginning at American Memorial Park. The first 100 volunteers will receive a free Tourism Month t-shirt.

Lt. Gov. Eloy Inos will officially proclaim the month during a proclamation signing ceremony on Thursday, April 29, at 10:30am. The public is invited to don their best islandwear—*mestiza*, *mwar*, aloha shirts, or similar styles—and join the ceremony at the Office of the Governor on Capitol Hill, Saipan.

The highlight of the month will be the much anticipated Taste of the Marianas International Food Festival and Beer Garden, slated for each Saturday in May from 6pm to 10pm at American Memorial Park. Chefs of island hotels and other vendors will share their best island dishes at over 15 booths, while non-stop live entertainment and competitions take place on two stages. Nightly competitions will be: Hut Decorating Competition, May 1; Hotdog Eating Contest, May 8; Spam Cook-off Contest, May 15; Bartenders' Cocktail Competition, May 22; and Chefs' Competition, May 31. Admission to the event is free.

Island residents are encour-

aged to show their *Hafa Adai Tirow* Spirit by wearing island wear—such as island print shirts and dresses and *mwar* (Carolinian head leis)—each Friday of the month. Fans can join Facebook's "*Hafa Adai Tirow* Spirit Island-wear of the Northern Mariana Islands" and share their favorite photos.

"Tourism is the primary source of revenue for both the government and the private sector, and we are grateful for all the partners who work with us

to strengthen the industry," said Marianas Visitors Authority managing director Perry Tenorio. "We continue to pursue our mission: to promote and develop the Northern Mariana Islands as a premier destination of choice for visitors throughout the world while providing a maximum quality of life for our people."

Other events throughout the month will include radio trivia on KZMI-FM and Power 99 and My Marianas community presentations on the industry. (MVA)

Two students slated to get NMC's leadership awards

By **MONETH G. DEPOSA**
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Two students from this year's graduating class will be conferred the prestigious Leadership Award by the Northern Marianas College in the commencement ceremony scheduled next month.

The college said its Student Leadership Awards subcommittee is now going through the process of selecting the honorees.

The award is given annually to a graduating student who demonstrates exceptional leadership skills and service to the college and to the community.

Leo Pangelinan, dean of Student Services, said there are many students who possess the values of a good leader and are deserving of the recognition.

"There are many students who exemplify the values that the Student Leadership Award serves to recognize," said Pan-

gelinan. "I'm sure the Student Leadership Awards committee will have a difficult time selecting one recipient for this prestigious award."

Last year, NMC conferred the leadership awards to Matthew Cabrera and Joaquin Kiyoshi Jr.

The same selection process will be applied this year where both associate and bachelor degree programs will have their own recipient.

The awards will be presented at NMC's graduation ceremony on May 22, 2010, at the Marianas High School Gymnasium.

This year's commencement rites slogan is "Navigating through obstacles, guided by knowledge, destined for success" and the event's keynote speaker is former instructor Sam McPhetres.

According to the committee, any student, staff, and faculty member of the college may nominate a graduating student for the award.

NMC has a total of 141 potential graduates this semester, based on the applications it received. Final numbers will be known a week prior to the graduation. If all applicants pass the requirements, the number will reflect a slight increase from the Spring 2009 figure of 125 graduates.

NMC data indicate that a big bulk of this year's graduating class is expected from the college's Adult Basic Education program, where 54 students have applied for graduation.

The second highest number of potential graduates comes from the associate degree in liberal arts program, where 37 registrants are noted. There are 19 applications from business administration; 18 from bachelor of science in elementary education, five from the associate in nursing program; associate degree in criminal justice, 3; business, 2; and one applicant each for the certificate programs for nursing assistant, audio/video production, and computer application.

This year marks NMC's 30th commencement exercises.

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COMMUNITY BRIEFS**Islandwide Cleanup today**

In support of April as Environmental Awareness Month, the Division of Environmental Quality would like to invite the community to participate in the Islandwide Cleanup today, April 23, from 2pm to 4pm. The cleanup will consist of picking up trash and debris on various beaches, parks, and streets of Saipan. For more information or to sign up/volunteer, contact DEQ One Start coordinator Jonathon Arriola or Chris Tomokane at 664-8500. (DEQ)

MHS Class of 2001 reunion meeting

All members of the MHS Class of 2001 will have a reunion meeting tomorrow, April 24, 2010, at 6pm. It will be at Ed Propst's party pit, located right behind Calvo's nursery. (PR)

SVES club to host plant sale tomorrow

San Vicente Elementary School's Young Farmers Club would like to help you be more self-sufficient. They will be having a plant sale tomorrow, April 24, between 8am and 12pm at the bus shelter. They have papaya, tomato, basil, mint, oregano, beans, cucumber, eggplant, pepper, green onions, seedless tangerine and lemon plants. They also have gardenia, ylang-ylang, Kennedy hibiscus and zinnia flowering plants for sale. All are ready to plant or repot for your summer garden

at prices of only \$3 to \$7. Help support these hard-working students, grow your own healthy food and be a young farmer too! We will also have some mini-hydroponic systems to check out or buy. All proceeds go back to SVES. (PR)

Sabalu Market to move to Garapan Base this Saturday

The Saipan Sabalu Market will be moved from Susupe to the Garapan Fishing Base on Saturday, April 24, 2010, because the Flame Tree Arts Festival will be occupying the area in Susupe on that day. The Market will be open as usual from 6am to 12pm. The Market will go back to the Susupe site the week after the festival. Support your local farmers: Buy local produce. (PR)

OPA staff on Rota and Tinian end of April

Staff of the Office of the Public Auditor will be on Rota on April 29 and on Tinian on April 30 to notarize and accept last-minute filings of financial disclosure statements from government officials.

Filers on Rota may visit the Rota Mayor's Office from 12:30pm to 4:30pm on April 29. Filers on Tinian may visit the Tinian Casino Gaming Control Commission conference room from 9am to 4:30pm on April 30.

All filers must bring with them some form of photo ID, such as

a driver's license or a passport. Failure to do so may result in the denial of notary services.

For any inquiries or comments, contact OPA at 322-6481 or 6482. (OPA)

No WIC clinic on Rota for two days

This is to inform all Rota WIC participants that there will be no clinic on April 27 and 28, 2010. Clinic staff will be calling you to reschedule appropriately, or you may call us at 664-4084. We apologize for any inconvenience this may have caused you. (WIC)

Green Meadow fundraising walkathon tomorrow

Green Meadow School PTA And Advisory Council will be hosting a fundraising event called "1st Annual Walkathon 2010" tomorrow, April 24, 2010, for the improvement of the school playground. Registration starts at 6am at Minachom Atdao. The beneficiaries, our children, will be grateful for your kind support. A t-shirt commemorating the walkathon will be given for every \$10 pledge of support. (PR)


Team Bodig to hold coin drive today

The 2010 Marianas March Against Cancer's Team Bodig will be holding a coin drive fundraising event today, April 23, from 3pm to 6pm at the Microl Toyota intersection in San

Jose. The public is encouraged to drive on by and donate whatever they can to help support the fight against cancer. All funds donated will go toward Team Bodig's contribution to the

2010 Marianas March Against Cancer. For more information on Team Bodig's fundraising events e-mail Jocelyn Deleon Guerrero at jocelyndlg@yahoo.com. The 2010 MMAC will be

held on May 14-15, from 6pm to 6am at the Hopwood Junior High School field in Chalan Piao. For more information call 483-4207 or visit www.ccamarianas.org. (PR)



Jewelry Auction

Seized Assets from Police Departments, IRS, U.S. Treasury & Secret Service...

...and other in violation of laws. Items bought from seized assets auctions will go up for bid with other merchandise which includes the majority of items.

Sunday, May 16, 2010

Auction: 12 Noon • Preview: 11 a.m. • Saipan World Resort

HIGHLIGHTS INCLUDE:

Certified solitaire diamonds from 1 to 7 carats. Many diamond stud earrings. A huge selection of TANZANITE jewelry for 1 to 3 carats. Rolex watches. Large selection of topaz, aquamarine, tourmaline & opal jewelry. 51 carat diamond & ruby necklace. Swiss made gold watches. ESTATE jewelry, bracelets, bangles, earrings, necklaces, rings, etc...

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NO HIDDEN COSTS !!!

*** SAIPAN, CNMI - STARTS: MONDAY - MAY 3, 2010

Location: North Marianas College, Saipan

*** TUMON, GUAM - STARTS: MONDAY - MAY 3, 2010

Location: Holiday Resort - Tumon, Guam

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100 TON / MASTER UP-GRADE COURSE & TEST

Master Course Schedule: Wednesday, Thursday & Friday: 8:00am to 5:00pm

*** SAIPAN (\$400.00 Total) - STARTS: WEDNESDAY - MAY 12, 2010

*** TUMON, GUAM (\$350.00 Total) - STARTS: WEDNESDAY - MAY 12, 2010

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*** SAIPAN: Contact: Captain Norman Tenorio (670) 234-6267 (day)

(Deposits for Saipan can be made with Captain Tenorio)

*** GUAM: Local Contact numbers are:

Captain Jerry Barcinas (671) 797-5365 or Captain Neri Blas (671) 727-3325

*** or call direct (Florida): Adams Marine Seminars: toll free # (877) 447-1950

(Deposits for Guam can be made in person at Guam Tropical Dive Station: Marine Drive, Across from Ace Hardware)

SCS/Ideal Signs gives \$3K to NMC Foundation



Northern Marianas College Foundation president Ben Babauta, third from left, receives a check from Kazuko Kawabe-Tiu, third from right, managing director of Saipan Computer Services/Ideal Signs, as SCS/IS staff smile on.

To aid in efforts to advance the academic programs and services at the Northern Marianas College and the educational resources available to its students, Saipan Computer Services/Ideal Signs recently donated \$3,000 to the NMC Foundation, the fundraising arm of the college.

"We are very proud to be supporting the NMC Foundation in its efforts to help ensure CNMI students a fruitful and rewarding education at the College," said Kazuko Wakabe-Tiu, managing director of Saipan Computer Services/Ideal Signs.

The donation was presented in support of the upcoming 8th Annual NMC Foundation Golf Open, which is organized by the NMC Foundation. The tournament, the organization's signature event, aims to raise critical funds to support NMC's academic programs and services.

"The donation from Saipan Computer Services/Ideal Signs will go a long way in providing for the academic needs of

NMC," said NMC Foundation president Ben Babauta.

The NMC Foundation is a non-profit organization whose goal is to raise funds to support the Northern Marianas College, the CNMI's lone post-secondary educational institution. The organization is composed of individuals who are dedicated and committed to ensuring that CNMI students receive the utmost support in pursuing their educational goals.

Saipan Lao Lao Bay Golf & Resort (West Course) will host the 8th Annual NMC Foundation Golf Open on Saturday, April 24, 2010. Show time is 6am and shotgun start is 7am. Registration fee is \$95.

For sponsorship information or to register to play, contact 234-5498 Ext. 1050 or log on to the NMC Web site at www.nmcnet.edu. Registration forms can be obtained from the Web site or by visiting the NMC Cashier's Office, Saipan Lao Lao Bay Golf & Resort, or Triple J Motors. (NMC)

Community agency partnerships rise with NMC Service Learning Program



Northern Marianas College Career Services and Service Learning program manager Heather Santos, right, speaks to NMC students about career opportunities, such as the Service Learning Program.

A program at the Northern Marianas College that seeks to fuse academic instruction with community service and internship has witnessed a recent increase in the number of agencies and business participating in its service offerings.

Each semester, the NMC Career Center's Service Learning Program affords students the opportunity to work on community projects or participate in community service programs relating to their course instruction.

The Public School System, Coastal Resource Management, and Division of Youth Services' Youth Development Program have participated in Service Learning Program at NMC for the past few semesters. Joining them are the Mariana Islands Nature Alliance, the Pacific Marine Resource Institute, the Joeten-Kiyu Public Library, and NMC's Information Systems Office.

"We deeply appreciate the

partnerships we continue to maintain and the partnerships we have newly formed with agencies and organizations in the community," said NMC Career Center program manager Heather Santos. "Through the assistance and services they provide, we are able to ensure that NMC students are given a rewarding education and professional experience."

In the program, students are required to perform at least 20 hours of direct service per semester. At the end of each semester, students top their experiences off with community presentations through various forms of media, such as mini-movies, power points presentations, poster, brochures, pamphlets, and articles.

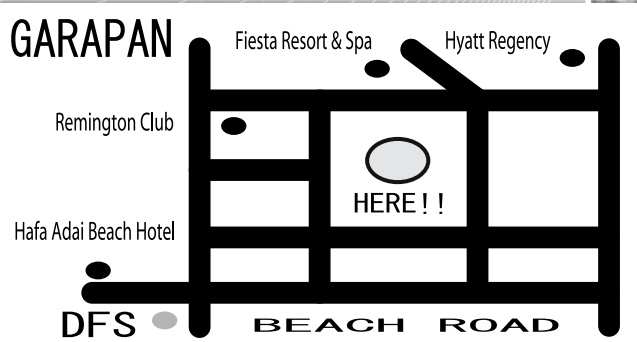
For more information on how to become a community partner in the Service Learning Program, contact Heather Santos at 234-5498 ext. 1348 or e-mail heathers@nmcnet.edu. (NMC)

Soft Opening

FRIDAY APRIL 23

BANB BOSSA NOVA

5:30pm to 12:00am



Individual/Group Dance Contest on May 7, 2010

1 st Place	\$500.00 + gift
2 nd Place	\$300.00 + gift
3 rd Place	\$100.00 + gift

For more information on how to join, please call 234-5050

April 23 & 24
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Pasta Select Spaghetti Rings and Meatballs 15 OZ. 99¢	Headless Shrimp 1 LB. \$5.99	Vega Shrimp 1 LB. LIMIT 2 \$4.99	Green Mussels 2 LB. LIMIT 1 \$3.99	Dashida Soup Stock 1 KG. \$6.99	Excellent Flour/Rice Stick 79¢	Zesto Juice (All Flavor) /BOX \$1.75	Wilkins 6000 ML. \$2.99	Butane Gas LIMIT 2 CASES /CASE \$19.99

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Tilapia /LB. 99¢ /CASE \$37.99	Milkfish /LB. \$1.49	Tillamook Swisscheese 1 LB. \$4.50	Tyson Anytizer All Kinds \$3.99	Kashi Pizza 11.9 OZ. 2 FOR \$10.00	Knorr Carb & Corn Soup 60 g. \$1.25	Magic Sarap /PACK \$1.00	Kraft Cool Whip All Kinds 8 OZ. \$1.99	Folgers Coffee 39 OZ. \$9.99
Maseca Flour \$3.99	Seaport Imitation Crab Stick \$1.99	Purple Yam (Florence) 12 OZ. \$1.99	Cabbage /LB. 79¢	Garlic (4 pcs.) /LB. 89¢	Potato (Jumbo) /LB. 79¢	Orange /LB. 89¢	Watermelon /LB. 49¢	Cucumber /LB. 30¢

FAMILY BAG

Pork Hocks	\$8.99
Pork Belly	\$10.99
Pork Adobo	\$9.99
Pork Spareribs	\$5.99
Pork Chops	\$10.99
Beef Stew	\$13.99
Beef Backribs	\$6.99
Stewing Chicken	\$6.99
Quarter Legs	\$4.99
Beef Ribeye Steak	\$15.99
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Libby's Vienna Sausage 5 OZ. /BOX (18 CANS) \$9.99	Kraft Parmesan Cheese 16 OZ. \$2.99	Kimchee Base 450G. \$4.99	Kikkoman 1.6 L. \$3.99	Silver Swan Soy Sauce 1 GALLON \$2.99	Golden State White Distilled Vinegar 1 GALLON \$2.99	Datu Puti Vinegar 1 GALLON \$2.99	UFC Catsup 1 GALLON \$3.99	Ventura Mayonaise 1 GALLON \$9.99	Dragon Vegetable Oil 1 GALLON \$6.99	Canola Oil 1 GALLON \$8.99	Salad Oil 5 GALLON \$23.99
Real Fresh Milk 1 LITER \$1.99	Achor Milk 1 LITER \$15.99	Promil Ages 1 to 3 1.8 KG. \$22.99	Enfami Milk 12.5 OZ. \$16.99 23.4 OZ. \$29.99	Atsuete Seeds /BAG \$2.99	Sugar 2 KG. \$1.99	Hungarian Flour 5 LBS. \$2.99	Corn Starch 1 LB. 99¢	Tabasco 12 OZ. \$6.99	Ichiban /BOX \$8.99	Korean Bowl Noodle /CASE \$7.99	Lucky Me Pancit Canton 4 for \$1.00
Lemon Powder /CASE \$4.99	Chorizzos LIMIT 1 \$26.99	Vlasic Dill Pickles WHOLE \$5.99 SLICE \$6.99	Kool Aid 22 QT. \$8.99	Chamorro Punch 2 LITERS \$7.99	Seok Su Water 550 ml. \$4.99	Tang 22 QT. \$8.99	Assam Black Tea 24 PCS. \$8.99	Hi-C 250 ML. \$11.99	Coke (All Flavors) WARM ONLY \$12.99	Natural Ice Beer /CASE \$17.99	Red Horse Beer 1000 ML. \$2.99 /BOTTLE \$16.99

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Clorox 3 QR. \$3.29	Bounty Paper Towel 15 ROLLS \$18.99	Bounty Basic Paper Towel 8 ROLLS \$8.99	Toilet Tissue 10 ROLLS \$3.50	Charmin Regular 24 ROLLS \$6.99	Diamond Foil 200 SQ.FT. \$6.99	Axxion Foam Plates 125 CT \$6.99	Safeguard 90 G. 59¢	Candle Jar \$1.39 EACH \$12.99	1 Burner Gas Stove \$11.99

Island Snapshots



BANK OF GUAM DONATION

Bank of Guam contributed two checks worth \$3,000 to the 2010 Flame Tree Festival. From left to right, BoG representatives Marcie M. Tomokane, vice president/CNMI regional manager; Margaret Muña, secretary, CCAC board of director; Festival coordinator Parker Yobei; Larry A. Philip, assistant vice president/Saipan branch manager; and Daniel Anderson, vice president/other real estate owned manager.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



KOBLERVILLE BASKETBALL COURT

Lt. Gov. Eloy Inos, Rep. Joseph Palacios, special assistant for OMB/CIP Vicky Villagomez and Department of Correction Ray Mafnas lead the children of Koblerville in the ribbon-cutting of the newly renovated Koblerville basketball court. The \$18,000 rehabilitation of the court was a project of the CIP Office.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



BIRTHDAY SHOUTOUT

Happy birthday greetings go out to Jerry Mabini who is celebrating his birthday today, Friday, April 23! Have a great one, man! Greetings come from your family and friends and your Dolphin Video Productions Crew.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



Happy birthday to our fabulous co-worker Elsie San Nicolas, who is celebrating her special day today, April 23, 2010. May you have many more birthdays to come! *Na banidosa hao sa i yomu i diha!* Cheers! Greetings come from your Nganga Fam bamz.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



Happy birthday to Zoe Marley Lizama Castro, who is celebrating her second birthday today! Love, the family.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



Happy 13th birthday to Clayton Brett! We love you so much! Greetings come from Mom, Dad, Chad, Brittany, Sierra and Greg Jr.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



ANNOUNCEMENT



The Republican Party of the NMI Association Announces its **General Membership Meeting**. All Republicans and individuals who wish to join the Republican Party are urged to attend this meeting.

What: **Membership Meeting**
When: **Wednesday, April 28, 2010**
Time: **6:00 pm**
Location: **Garapan Central Park**

AGENDA for General Membership Meeting

- Welcoming Remarks
- Official Endorsement of Juan N. Babauta as the GOP Candidate for U.S. Delegate
- Election of Vacant GOP Officers Positions
- Closing

Paid for by the Republican Party of the NMI Association



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INVITATION TO BID ITB10-GOV-088

**Construct Storm Water Collection & Disposal Systems
to San Vicente and Tanapag Elementary Schools**

Governor Benigno R. Fitial and Lt. Governor Eloy S. Inos are soliciting sealed bids to construct storm water collection and disposal systems for the San Vicente and Tanapag Elementary Schools, located on Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The project package will be available on Tuesday, April 13, 2010 at the Governor's CIP Administrator's Office, Juan A Sablan Building, Capitol Hill. A non-refundable payment of Twenty Five Dollars (\$25.00) is required for each project package. Payment must be made to the CNMI Treasurer and a receipt of payment must be presented when obtaining the Scope of Work at the CIP Office on Capitol Hill. All interested bidders are required to include an Insurer Certification Clearance (ICC) in their bid packages in order to bid on this project. The ICC should be obtained at the Department of Commerce, Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC) on Capitol Hill.

Bidding procedures shall be in full compliance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations, as revised through May 24, 2001. Public Law 15-95 Local Preference Act, as amended by Public Law 15-118 does not apply to this Federally funded project. All wage rates for employees performing the work, labor and services on this project shall be paid at the current U.S. prevailing wage rates established for the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

There will be a Pre-bid Conference/Site Visit for these projects on Tuesday April 20, 2010, 9:00 a.m., beginning at San Vicente Elementary School and ending at Tanapag Elementary School. Questions regarding the ITB must be submitted in writing to Mr. N. Stanley Good, CIP Project Manager, CIP Office, Office of the Governor or faxed to (670) 664-2408. All questions regarding this project must be submitted in writing no later than 4:00 p.m., April 30, 2010.

Sealed bids must be marked "ITB10-GOV-088" For bidders within the CNMI, an original and two copies of sealed bids must be submitted to the Director of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, no later than 10:00 a.m. Saipan local time, May 10, 2010. Bidders located outside of the CNMI may obtain an additional seven (7) working days for receipt of their bids by submitting a Notice of Intent to Bid. Notices of Intent to Bid must be received by the Director of Procurement & Supply no later than 10:00 a.m. Saipan local time May 10, 2010, and must be transmitted via facsimile to (670) 664-1515, or via e-mail to procurement@pticom.com. For bidders located outside the CNMI, an original and two copies of sealed bids must be postmarked by the U.S. Postal Service or the official government postal service of a foreign country no later than May 10, 2010 and must be received no later than 3:00 p.m. May 17, 2010. Note that failure to submit the required number of copies may be cause for rejection of a bid.

Bids will be publicly opened and read at the Division of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, at 4:00 p.m. Saipan local time, May 17, 2010. However, if no Notices of Intent to bid are received from bidders outside the CNMI, bids will be opened at 11:00 a.m. Saipan local time, May 10, 2010.

For bids greater than Twenty-Five Thousand Dollars (\$25,000.00) a bid bond of fifteen percent (15 %) of the bid amount must accompany the bid. This security may be a Certified Check, Cashier's Check or Bid Bond. Checks must be made payable to the CNMI Treasurer, with the name of the bidder and a notation on the face of the check: "Credit Account No. 44660". Surety companies must hold a certificate of authority from the U.S. Secretary of the Treasury as an acceptable surety or other surety acceptable to the CNMI Attorney General.

The bidder submitting the lowest responsive bid will be subject to a responsibility determination in conformance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations Section 3-301. The responsible bidder submitting the lowest responsive bid will be awarded a contract with the CNMI Government and will be required to deliver Performance and Payment bonds, each equal to 100% of the contract price. The surety company providing the Performance and Payment bonds must be authorized to conduct business in the CNMI and possess unencumbered assets equal to the penal amount of each bond. Performance time for completion of this project is 90 calendar days upon issuance of Notice to Proceed. The daily amount of liquidated damages shall be greater of (i) two hundred fifty dollars (\$250.00), or (ii) two percent (2%) of the contract price divided by ninety (90) calendar days, the contract time and will be assessed as delays beyond the established completion date.

All bid documents received shall become the sole property of the CNMI Government. The Government reserves the right to reject any or all bids and to waive any imperfection in a bid proposal that does not affect the elements of price, quantity, and delivery of the bid, in the best interest of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

Business

Govt goes high-tech to redesign \$100 bills

WASHINGTON (AP)—The folks who print America’s money have designed a high-tech makeover of the \$100 bill. It’s part of an effort to stay ahead of counterfeiters as technology becomes more sophisticated and more dollars flow overseas, Federal Reserve Chairman Ben Bernanke says.

The makeover, unveiled Wednesday by Bernanke and Treasury Secretary Timothy Geithner, may leave people wondering if there’s magic involved.

Benjamin Franklin is still on the C-note. But he has been joined by a disappearing Liberty Bell in an inkwell and a bright blue security ribbon

BoH volunteers reach out to ‘Teach Children To Save’

HAGATNA, Guam—Bank of Hawaii staff members in Saipan, Palau, and American Samoa will participate in the ABA (American Bankers Association) Education Foundation’s annual “Teach Children to Save Day” on April 27.

“Teach Children to Save Day” is a national campaign that raises awareness about the role that banks and bankers play in helping young people develop lifelong savings habits. Since 1997, the campaign has reached 3.4 million young people with the help of some 80,000 banker volunteers, an annual awareness day, “Teach Children to Save Day,” and the Teach Children to Save Web site: www.teachchildrentosave.com. The program’s goal is to encourage bankers to reach 5 million

Bank of Hawaii

students before the end of 2011, the 15th anniversary of Teach Children to Save.

This year will be the first time that staff members from Bank of Hawaii Saipan, Palau and American Samoa will join the program. Bank of Hawaii volunteers will present to several public schools across the islands.

“This is a wonderful opportunity for our staff to share their knowledge with the kids, teaching them about the importance of saving from an early age,” said Ron Cannoles, executive vice president and Pacific Islands division manager at Bank of Hawaii. “Bank of Hawaii is pleased to be able to teach children savings habits that will help them throughout their lives.”

Part of the program is the “Savers’ Pledge” which symbolizes a child’s promise to save, open or contribute to a savings account, focus on needs instead of wants and to encourage their friends to save. “The Savers’ Pledge” is a physical reminder of their commitment to become a saver. (BoH)

composed of thousands of tiny lenses that magnify objects in mysterious ways. Move the bill, and the objects move in a different direction.

The new currency will not go into circulation until Feb. 10 of next year. That will give the government time to educate the public in the United States and around the world about the changes.

“We estimate that as many as two-thirds of all \$100 notes circulate outside the United States,” said Bernanke, who stressed that the 6.5 billion older-design \$100 bills now in circulation will remain legal tender.

The \$100 bill, the highest value denomination in general circulation, is the last bill to undergo an extensive redesign. The Bureau of Engraving and Printing began the process in 2003, adding splashes of color to spruce up first the \$20 and then the \$50, \$10 and \$5 bills. The \$1 bill isn’t getting

a makeover.

The changes are aimed at thwarting counterfeiters who are armed with ever-more sophisticated computers, scanners and color copiers.

The \$100 bill is the most frequent target of counterfeiters operating outside of the United States while the \$20 bill is the favorite target of counterfeiters inside the country.

The redesigned \$100 bill had originally been expected to go into circulation in late 2008 but it’s introduction was delayed to give the government time to refine all the new security features.

The government has prepared education resources in 25 languages to inform the public about the design changes and is giving people a chance to view the new bills on its website.

“We wanted the changes to be very obvious, visible and easy to see,” Larry Felix, director of the Bureau of Engraving and Printing, said in an interview with The Associated Press.

Obama suggests value-added tax may be an option

WASHINGTON (AP)—President Barack Obama suggested Wednesday that a new value-added tax on Americans is still on the table, seeming to show more openness to the idea than his aides have expressed in recent days.

Before deciding what revenue options are best for dealing with the deficit and the economy, Obama said in an interview with CNBC, “I want to get a better picture of what our options are.”

After Obama adviser Paul Volcker recently raised the prospect of a value-added tax, or VAT, the Senate voted 85-13 last week for a nonbinding “sense of the Senate” resolution that calls the such a tax “a massive tax increase that will cripple families on fixed income and only further push back America’s economic recovery.”

For days, White House spokesmen have said the president has not proposed and is not considering a VAT.

“I think I directly answered

this the other day by saying that it wasn’t something that the president had under consideration,” White House press secretary Robert Gibbs told reporters shortly before Obama spoke with CNBC.

After the interview, White House deputy communications director Jen Psaki said nothing has changed and the White House is “not considering” a VAT.

Many European countries impose a VAT, which taxes the value that is added at each stage of production of certain commodities. It could apply, for instance, to raw products delivered to a mill, the mill’s production work and so on up the line to the retailer.

In the CNBC interview, Obama said he was waiting for recommendations from a bipartisan fiscal advisory commission on ways to tackle the deficit and other problems.

When asked if he could see a potential VAT in this nation,

the president said: “I know that there’s been a lot of talk around town lately about the value-added tax. That is something that has worked for some countries. It’s something that would be novel for the United States.”

“And before, you know, I start saying ‘this makes sense or that makes sense,’ I want to get a better picture of what our options are,” Obama said.

He said his first priority “is to figure out how can we reduce wasteful spending so that, you know, we have a baseline of the core services that we need and the government should provide. And then we decide how do we pay for that.” Volcker has said taxes might have to be raised to slow the deficit’s growth. He said a value-added tax “was not as toxic an idea” as it had been in the past.

Since then, some GOP lawmakers and conservative commentators have said the Obama administration is edging toward a VAT.



Mount Carmel School

Post Office Box 500006,
Saipan, MP 96950
Tel: (670) 234-6184/234-7188
Fax No. (670) 235-4751
Email: mtcarmel@vzpacifica.net
Web: <http://www.mtcarmel-edu.net>

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT
School Year 2010-2011

Position	Need	Level	Salary	Qualifications	Closing Date
Classroom Teachers					
		From P/L-VI (01-12)	\$18,000 to \$24,916.21	Grad. from an accredited college or university w/B.A-Education or Related	Until Filled
*Religion (Junior High & High School)	01				
*High School Science (Biology, Chemistry, Physics, Adv. Biology)	01	to	And from		
*High School Math (Algebra II, Geometry, Trig/Pre-Calculus, AP Calculus)	01				
*Middle School Math/Science (Jr. High Science, Pre-Algebra, Algebra I, General Math, Geometry)	01	P/L VII (01-07)	\$18,540.00 to \$22,137.73		
*Computer (1st to 12th, Yearbook, Digital Arts)	01				
*P.E./Health (1st to 12th)	01				
*Elementary (3rd Grade)	01				
*Elementary (4th Grade)	01				
Building Maintenance	1	I-III (01-12)	\$10,000 to \$17,109.13	High School or Equivalent to Bachelor's Degree or Equivalent from an accredited college or university	Until Filled

Interested applicants may obtain a detailed job description with qualification requirements and application forms at Mount Carmel School Business Office from 8:00 am to 5:00 pm. Application forms can also be downloaded from the school’s website at <http://www.mtcarmel-edu.net>. Required documents must be attached to completed application forms (1) official copy of diploma/degree or Official transcripts; (2) FBI clearance (only required after an offer for employment is made or an employment contract is signed; (3) police clearance (from jurisdiction or residence within the last 3 months); (4) resume, and teaching certificate. Completed applications and required documents may be submitted to Mount Carmel School, ATTN: Margaret C. DelaCruz, President, P.O. Box 500006, Saipan MP 96950. Inquiries can be made by calling 235-1251 or 235-3187. Mount Carmel School is an equal opportunity employer.

Fully Accredited by the Western Association of Schools and College

Nation

Earth Day: No more burning rivers, but new threats

WASHINGTON (AP)—Pollution before the first Earth Day was not only visible, it was in your face: Cleveland's Cuyahoga River caught fire. An oil spill fouled 30 miles of Southern California beaches. And thick smog choked many cities' skies.

Not anymore.

On Thursday, 40 years after that first Earth Day in 1970, smog levels nationwide have dropped by about a quarter, and lead levels in the air are down more than 90 percent. Formerly fetid lakes and burning rivers are now open to swimmers.

The challenges to the planet today are largely invisible—and therefore tougher to tackle.

"To suggest that we've made progress is not to say the problem is over," said William Ruckelshaus, who in 1970 became the first head of the Environmental Protection Agency. "What we've done is shift from the very visible kinds of issues to those that are a lot more subtle today."

Issues such as climate change are less obvious to the naked eye. Since the first Earth Day, carbon dioxide levels in the air

have increased by 19 percent, pushing the average annual world temperature up about 1 degree Fahrenheit, according to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

"We've cleaned up what you can see and left everything else in limbo," said Kathleen Rogers, president of the Earth Day Network.

Improvements took shape in the form of the Clean Air Act, the Clean Water Act and changes in the way businesses treat the environment, said Denis Hayes. Those reforms, he added, grew out of the first Earth Day, an event Hayes helped coordinate.

"It is the most powerful, sweeping, society-wide change America has had since the New Deal," Hayes said. "The air is cleaner despite the fact that we have twice as many vehicles traveling twice as many miles."

Nancy Sutley, head of the White House Council on Environmental Quality, said progress in the past 40 years is about more than just laws. It's also about innovation that made cleaner cars. And that innovation, Sutley said,



Wayne Bratton poses in the wheel house of his tour boat, "Holiday", docked on the Cuyahoga River in Cleveland Tuesday, April 20, 2010.

"is going to be the answer for tackling climate change."

No place illustrates progress more than the Cuyahoga River.

Cleveland's main river used to periodically catch fire. On June 22, 1969, trash and an oil slick ignited. The river burned for half an hour, drawing national attention to water pollution nationwide.

People didn't swim in the river at the time, and anyone who fell in needed to be checked by a doctor.

"The river bubbled like a cauldron. There were all kinds of chemicals in there, and that was what was bubbling at the

bottom," said Wayne Bratton, a boat captain then and now, and the first president of the Cleveland Harbor Conservation Committee.

On Tuesday, Wayne Bratton was aboard his boat, The Holiday. He looked over the starboard side at Collision Bend and described by telephone what he saw: "I'm looking at a lot of gulls, there's a loon, a lot of black heron."

People now fish in the river, which holds 60 species. There's a spiffy amphitheater on the river bank, which never would have been built when the water had a dreadful stench, Bratton said.

Oil rig explodes off Louisiana coast; 11 missing

NEW ORLEANS (AP)—Rescuers in helicopters and boats searched the Gulf of Mexico for 11 missing workers Wednesday after a thunderous explosion rocked a huge oil drilling platform and lit up the night sky with a pillar of flame. Seventeen people were injured, four critically.

The blast Tuesday night aboard the Deepwater Horizon rig 50 miles off the Louisiana coast could prove to be one of the nation's deadliest offshore drilling accidents of the past half-century.

The Coast Guard held out hope that the missing workers escaped in one of the platform's covered lifeboats.

Nearly 24 hours after the explosion, the roughly 400-by-250-foot rig continued to burn, and authorities could not say when the flames might die out. A column of boiling black smoke rose hundreds of feet over the Gulf of Mexico as fireboats shot streams of water at the blaze.

"We're hoping everyone's in a life raft," Coast Guard Se-

nior Chief Petty Officer Mike O'Berry said.

Adrian Rose, vice president of rig owner Transocean Ltd., said the explosion appeared to be a blowout, in which natural gas or oil forces its way up a well pipe and smashes the equipment. But precisely what went wrong was under investigation.

Crews were doing routine work before the explosion and there were no signs of trouble, Rose said.

A total of 126 workers were aboard the rig when it blew

up. The Coast Guard said 17 were taken by air or sea to hospitals. Four were reported in critical condition. Others suffered burns, broken legs and smoke inhalation.

Nearly 100 other workers made it aboard a supply boat and were expected to reach the Louisiana shore by evening.

Kelly Eugene waited with nine family members for husband Kevin Eugene, 46, a cook on the Deepwater Horizon. A catering company operating on the rig notified her he was safe.

Motorcyclist deaths drop, sour economy cited

WASHINGTON (AP)—After a decade of steady increases, motorcyclist deaths nose-dived last year, possibly due to bikers watching their budgets in a sour economy.

The study, set for release Thursday, indicates a 16 percent drop in U.S. motorcycle fatalities through

the first nine months of 2009 compared to the same period in the previous year. It projects at least a 10 percent decline in fatalities over the entire year, or about 530 fewer deaths.

The 5,290 motorcyclist deaths in 2008 was the highest ever.

The study—authored by safety consultant James Hedlund, a former National Highway Traffic Safety Administration official—is drawn from preliminary fatality data from all 50 states, although data from some states was incomplete. The study was sponsored by the Governors Highway Safety Association, which represents state traffic safety agencies,

There is nothing in the data to indicate the cause of the sudden decline, but it is most likely due in part to a cutback in recreational driving by motorcyclists, Hedlund said in an interview.

"Much motorcycle riding is recreational, not transportation," Hedlund said. "What gets cut in bad economic times is money you spend on recreation, not money you spend on the necessities of life like getting back and forth."

**PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT**

**INVITATION TO BID
ITB10-DOC-090**

CLOSING DATE: WEDNESDAY, MAY 12, 2010 TIME: 10:00 A.M.

"RETROFITTING OF EXISTING PARKING LIGHT EMITTING DIODE (LED) LAMPS FOR SAIPAN, TINIAN AND ROTA"

COPIES OF THE BID PACKAGE CAN BE OBTAINED AT THE QUICK PRINT AND POST FOR A NOMINAL REPRODUCTION FEE, CHALAN PALE ARNOLD, GARAPAN, SAIPAN DURING REGULAR BUSINESS HOURS ON OR AFTER APRIL 12, 2010.

A MANDATORY PRE-BID MEETING WILL BE CONDUCTED AT THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE CONFERENCE ROOM, CAPITOL HILL, SAIPAN ON TUESDAY, APRIL 27TH, 2010 BEGINNING AT 10 AM.

THIS IS AN AMERICAN RECOVERY AND REINVESTMENT ACT OF 2009 PROJECT AND AS SUCH, ALL MATERIALS PURCHASED MUST BE MANUFACTURED IN THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.

THIS IS A FEDERALLY FUNDED PROJECT; AS SUCH, LOCAL PREFERENCE IS NOT AVAILABLE, BECAUSE IT IS PROHIBITED BY FEDERAL LAW.

/s/ MICHAEL ADA /s/ MARTIN C. SABLAN
SECRETARY OF COMMERCE ACTING SECRETARY OF DPW

/s/ HERMAN S. SABLAN
DIRECTOR, P&S

**PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT**

**REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
RFP10-CHC-092**

SUBMISSION DATE: MAY 14, 2010 • TIME: 2:00 P.M.

"MEDICAL/DENTAL BILLING AND COLLECTION SERVICES FOR THE COMMONWEALTH HEALTH CENTER"

THE RFP PACKAGE MAY BE OBTAINED AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT & SUPPLY IN LOWER BASE, SAIPAN DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

ALL QUESTIONS OR INQUIRIES FOR CLARIFICATION IS DUE ON **MAY 04, 2010 OF BUSINESS** AND SHOULD BE DIRECTED TO MS. ESTHER L. MUNA, MHA, CPC AT TEL. (670) 234-8950, BY FAX TO (670) 234-8930 OR VIA E-MAIL AT elmspn@aol.com

PREFERENCE IS AVAILABLE TO US CITIZENS OR PERMANENT RESIDENTS AS PER PUBLIC LAW 15-95 AND AS FURTHER AMENDED BY PUBLIC LAW 15-118 AND MUST BE SUBMITTED WITH PROPOSAL IF PREFERENCE IS CLAIMED.

/s/ JOSEPH K.P. VILLAGOMEZ /s/ HERMAN S. SABLAN
SECRETARY OF HEALTH Director, P&S

**PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT**

**REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
RFP10-DEQ-094**

SUBMISSION: MAY 18, 2010 • TIME: 2:00 P.M.

"PERFORMANCE OF ASTM PHASE I AND PHASE II ENVIRONMENTAL SITE ASSESSMENT OF TWO POTENTIAL LEAKING UNDERGROUND STORAGE TANK SITES ON SAIPAN, CNMI FOR THE DIVISION OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY"

THE SCOPE OF WORK IS AVAILABLE ON OR AFTER APRIL 16, 2010 AT THE DEQ OFFICE LOCATED IN THE GUALO RAI CENTER BUILDING, SAIPAN OR ELECTRONICALLY BY E-MAIL REQUEST TO mxsimian@deq.gov.mp

A PRE-PROPOSAL MEETING IS SCHEDULED FOR **MAY 04, 2010 AT 10:00 A.M.** IN THE 2ND FLOOR DEQ CONFERENCE ROOM (RM. 205). QUESTIONS REGARDING THIS PROJECT MAY BE SUBMITTED BY FACSIMILE TO MR. MAX SIMIAN, GEOLOGIST, AT (670) 664-8540 OR BY E-MAIL AT mxsimian@deq.gov.mp NO LATER THAN THE CLOSE OF BUSINESS **MAY 07, 2010.**

THIS IS A FEDERALLY FUNDED PROJECT; AS SUCH, LOCAL PREFERENCE **IS NOT AVAILABLE** BECAUSE ITS USE IS PROHIBITED BY FEDERAL LAW GRANTING FUNDING FOR THIS PROJECT.

/s/ FRANK M. RABAUQUIM /s/ HERMAN S. SABLAN
DIRECTOR OF DEQ DIRECTOR, P&S

COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY
 Main Office: SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
 P.O. BOX 501055 • SAIPAN • MP 96950-1055
 Phone: (670) 237-4500/1 Fax: (670) 234-5962
 E-Mail Address: cpa.admin@pticom.com • Website: www.cpa.gov.mp

**FRANCISCO C. ADA/SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
TRASH COLLECTION SERVICES**

**REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL
CPA-RFP-001-10A**

The Commonwealth Ports Authority (CPA) is soliciting cost proposals for trash collection services for a period of two years. The collection locations and scope of work package is available Monday to Friday from 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. at the office of the Executive Director, 2nd floor, Arrival Building, at the Saipan International Airport.

Interested proposers are encouraged to contact CPA's Terminal Maintenance Department at 237-6500 to make arrangements for a site visit of the trash collection locations.

Interested proposers must submit one original and four copies of the sealed cost proposal for the term of two-years service, a description of proposer's past performance and experience, list of equipment, and proof of insurance in compliance with CPA's insurance requirements. The employees of the winning proposer accessing the secured areas at the airport will be required to obtain an airport security badge which includes finger-printing and criminal background check, at the expense of the proposer.

The sealed proposals must be submitted before **4:30 p.m., Friday, April 30, 2010**, at the Office of the Executive Director, 2nd floor of the Arrival Building, at the Saipan International Airport. CPA reserves the right to reject any and all proposals if in its opinion to do so is in CPA's best interest.

EDWARD M. DELEON GUERRERO
 Executive Director

Date: April 15, 2010

ACROSS THE NATION

Police seek couple who left Fla. boy at NYC church

NEW YORK (AP)—Authorities say a family caravanning with a woman and her toddler in Florida took the 3-year-old to New York after the boy's mother was arrested on fraud charges, abandoning him at St. Patrick's Cathedral with a note stuffed into his hand bearing the name of a detective working the case and the words "call immediately." Eleanor Black, 29, was identified through surveillance footage at the cathedral, police said Wednesday. She and William Scott, 32, were believed to have been the last two people with Nathaniel Fons, and they were also suspected of being involved in the counterfeiting operation in Florida where his mother was charged. Police said Black came to the famed cathedral on Manhattan's Fifth Avenue at about

6:30 p.m. Tuesday. She asked at the information desk to see a priest and was told to go around the corner and someone would come down, police said.

Conn. mayor donates kidney to Facebook friend

HARTFORD, Conn. (AP)—Politicians long ago discovered the uses of Facebook. East Haven Mayor April Capone Almon found something else there: a constituent who needed her kidney. Capone Almon, 35, had more than 1,600 "friends" on Facebook last year when she saw one of them, Carlos Sanchez, post a status update saying his friends and relatives had all been tested and couldn't donate a kidney. She knew him casually through activities and friends in the New Haven suburb of East Haven, but they weren't so close that she had heard he was ill.



COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR
DIVISION OF ADMINISTRATIVE HEARING
Floor, Afetna Square Building, San Antonio, P.O. Box 10007, Saipan MP 96950



NOTICE AS TO BOND CLAIMS
2008 AND PRIOR YEAR CASES

April 16, 2010, First Notice
April 23, 2010, Second Notice

COMPLAINANTS IN LABOR CASES AND AGENCY CASES FILED IN 2008 AND PRIOR YEARS:

Each of the complainants listed below registered with the Department of Labor a bond claim with respect to an administrative order that was not paid by an employer.

All of the bond claims registered with respect to any 2008 or prior year case which are collectible from a bonding company have been adjudicated by a hearing officer and an order has been issued. The processing of all of the bond claims registered with respect to 2009 cases will be completed shortly. The Department of Labor has completed these cases in response to a court decision, which the Department believes is not a correct interpretation of the law.

The claims registered by the persons listed below have been determined to be uncollectible in whole or in part from any bonding company. There are several reasons for this: (1) the work done may have been illegal, in which case there was no bond submitted by the employer; (2) the bonding company may have gone out of business or become insolvent; (3) the bond issued to the employer may not have covered the full amount of the administrative award because bonds typically cover only three months of wages and some claims involved a longer time period of non-payment; or (4) there may be other defects in the claim.

Although these claims cannot be collected from a bonding company, there remains a possibility that they may still be collectible from the employer or other responsible person. The Department of Labor has referred each of these claims to the Attorney General's Office because the Department is represented in the courts by the Attorney General. Assistant Attorney General Eli Golob is in charge of determining whether these claims can be collected through court action. If the employer or other responsible person is (1) no longer in the Commonwealth; (2) has declared bankruptcy; or (3) has no assets from which the claim can be collected, then the Assistant Attorney General may determine that no court action is warranted. If Assistant Attorney General Golob determines that court action is warranted, then the necessary court action will be brought to pursue the claim. However, the limited resources of the Attorney General's Office due to budget reductions may cause this work to be delayed.

There are alternatives to waiting for the Attorney General's Office to pursue a claim. Under the Immigration Conformity Act of 2010, which became effective on March 22, 2010, foreign national workers now have a private right of action with respect to unpaid wage claims. Any of the persons listed below may now bring an action in Small Claims Court against the employer or any other responsible person. The Administrative Hearing Office at the Labor Department has a Small Claims Packet containing instructions as to how to do this. Alternatively, any of the persons listed below may notify Assistant Attorney General Golob that they consent to the assignment of the claim by the Office of the Attorney General to a lawyer in private practice so that, with an arrangement on fees, the claim might be pursued more expeditiously.

Name	LIDS No.	Case No.	Employer
Abadilla, Ariel	103741	BC No. 09-074	Sy's Corporation
Abaygar, Zenaida	112336	BC No.09-082	World Apparel, Inc.
Abiendo, Alicia	118359	BC No.09-040	Maria Estrella Pelisamen
Ahmed, Soheli	174669	BC No. 09-001	Kinship Ent. Inc.
Alvaro, Edilberto C.	176210	BC No.09-039	An Da International Corp.
Aque, Diosdade	127284	BC No. 09-004	NET Corporation
Ararao, Jimmy	141131	BC No.09-072	Maribeths Corporation
Baing, Ambrocio	125774	BC No. 09-001	Kinship Ent. Inc.
Baltazar, Luzviminda	103094	BC No.09-072	Maribeths Corporation
Bautista, Alexander	126099	BC No. 09-017	All Around Security Inc.
Bernido, Marlon	117288	BC No. 09-074	Sy's Corporation
Briones, Warlito	110861	BC No.09-052	Zambi Corporation
Cabalza, Lucille	105411	BC No. 09-008	J.D.H. Corp dba MGM VI
Capina, Araceli	205332	BC No.09-081	World Apparel, Inc.
Casapao, Juliana	282743	BC No. 09-003	Moonlight Shopping
Chai, Feng Qi	122465	BC No.09-048	World Apparel, Inc.
Che, Gang Hui	285558	BC No.09-041	Poong In SPN Inc.
Chen, Feifei	280154	BC No.09-035	William Dela Rosa
Chen, Jianhua	190921	BC No. 09-014	JSJ Corporation
Chen, Yanqin	155057	BC No. 09-015	CWM Inc.
Chen, Zhihong	152632	BC No. 09-018	Rifu Apparel Corp.
Dabu, Juanito	120891	BC No. 09-074	Sy's Corporation
Dacucos, Imelda	182520	BC No.09-047	Wall Street Empire Inc.
Delos Santos, Yolanda	123949	BC No.09-037	World Apparel, Inc.
Deng, Lifang	157411	BC No. 09-034	Yong Jia Corp.
Ding, Guozheng	197862	BC No. 09-027	Poong In SPN Inc.
Doctolero, Adela	285833	BC No.09-082	World Apparel, Inc.
Drilon, Ariel Atayde	188829	BC No. 09-074	Sy's Corporation
Elloso, Rolando	103913	BC No.09-069	Pantaleon B. Valenzuela
Enriquez, Ricardo	288010	BC No. 09-029	Erensia Inc.
Fan, Chunyan	197104	BC No.09-064	K & K Corporation
Fang, Juanping	285221	BC No.09-055	LY & Z American Corporation
Felipe, Josephine	163805	BC No. 09-023	Joo Ang Apparel Inc.
Fernando, Feminencio	110776	BC No.09-053	Antonio A. Benavente dba Benavente Security Agency and Island Protection Service
Gamelo, Felizardo	122980	BC No. 09-019	Manny Villaga
Genobaten, Edgar	195214	BC No. 09-074	Sy's Corporation
Gong, Zhenpei	190925	BC No. 09-014	JSJ Corporation
Gu, Jianhua	310442	BC No.09-051	Yong Cheng Corp.
Guatam, Kamala	204114	BC No. 09-025	Rios, Emilia T.
Hu, Guihua	287734	BC No. 09-034	Yong Jia Corp.
Huang, Fengxia	171405	BC No. 09-016	Chen Gang Corporation
Huang, Haibin	171408	BC No.09-050	Yong Jia Corp.
Huang, Ruiang	202259	BC No. 09-020	Sako Corporation
Huang, Ruiang	202259	BC No.09-083	LY & Z American Corp.
Isidro, Rommel	186879	BC No. 09-005	Angel's International School of Dance Inc.
Isidro, Ryan	186786	BC No. 09-005	Angel's International School of Dance Inc.
Jin, Caiping	181883	BC No. 09-034	Yong Jia Corp.
Jin, Chengquan	298356	BC No.09-061	Dragon Corporation
Khan, MD Leakat Ali	125268	BC No. 09-026	Edward Ayuyu
Lacson, Bernabe	143668	BC No. 09-004	NET Corporation
Li, A Wu	115605	BC No.09-085	T & B International, Inc.
Li, Changjun	141208	BC No. 09-018	Rifu Apparel Corp.
Li, Guanzhi	157413	BC No. 09-034	Yong Jia Corp.

Name	LIDS No.	Case No.	Employer
Li, Ji Di	166547	BC No.09-045	Far Ocean Corporation
Li, Ji Di	166547	BC No.09-065	Far Ocean Corporation
Li, Qian De	143388	BC No. 09-018	Rifu Apparel Corp.
Li, Xiangrong	174085	BC No. 09-034	Yong Jia Corp.
Li, Xinying	164273	BC No.09-059	Sam Marianas Inc.
Li, Yanxia	190669	BC No.09-042	Poong In SPN Inc.
Lin, Meidan	138317	BC No.09-067	L & K Intl. Inc.
Liu, Ai Min	143364	BC No. 09-034	Yong Jia Corp.
Liu, Shunli	282010	BC No. 09-009	Mariana Fashions Inc.
Liu, Yan	166308	BC No. 09-034	Yong Jia Corp.
Long, Xiaohong	281431	BC No.09-066	K & K Corporation
Luo, Cheng	113446	BC No.09-043	Zhong Ming Corporation
Magtapat, Ruperto	123560	BC No. 09-002	JG Sablan Ice & Water Co. Inc.
Manalang, Nelia	294425	BC No.09-047	Wall Street Empire Inc.
Manlangit, Ely	136136	BC No.09-044	Pacific Utility & Comm. Inc.
Manlangit, Ely	136136	BC No.09-073	Pacific Utility & Comm. Inc.
Millare, Bernadeth	293438	BC No. 09-018	Rifu Apparel Corp.
Nagpacan, Edwin	111541	BC No. 09-007	Bien Sieko Inc. & Isagani Benoza
Obra, Renita	196251	BC No. 09-022	Pete W. Onni
Pagdato, Marticio	111100	BC No. 09-012	Felipina A. Sablan
Pulido, Marilou	128752	BC No.09-082	World Apparel, Inc.
Qian, Meiling	194838	BC No.09-077	Song Yong Jun dba Banana Karaoke
Qian, Xiaoli	201225	BC No. 09-018	Rifu Apparel Corp.
Qu, Yueping	297610	BC No.09-063	Hans Corporation
Quiroz, Dindo	203491	BC No.09-078	Alexander M. Castro dba Alcast Co.
Ramos, Gracita	280117	BC No.09-068	American Joint Part Corp Ent. Ltd.
Saludes, Meriam	302390	BC No. 09-013	Juan L. Evangelista
Shen, Yuanneng	287300	BC No.09-057	K & K Corporation
Song, Liwei	155135	BC No. 09-018	Rifu Apparel Corp.
Song, Liwei	155135	BC No.09-058	World Apparel, Inc.
Su, Guowei	281552	BC No. 09-018	Rifu Apparel Corp.
Sun, Maomei	194198	BC No.09-075	Trans Asia GMT Forte Corp.
Valdez, Edgar	106684	BC No.09-044	Pacific Utility & Comm. Inc.
Viray, Mary Ann	120641	BC No.09-082	World Apparel, Inc.
Wang, Yasu	190465	BC No. 09-034	Yong Jia Corp.
Wei, Yanlin	170224	BC No. 09-018	Rifu Apparel Corp.
Wei, Yanlin	170224	BC No.09-062	World Apparel, Inc.
Wu, Xiaowen	194847	BC No.09-036	Mirage SPN Co. Ltd.
Wu, Yanmei	121548	BC No. 09-034	Yong Jia Corp.
Xiao, Delai	200144	BC No. 09-018	Rifu Apparel Corp.
Xing, Xuebin	281829	BC No.09-054	Far Ocean Corporation
Xu, Que Hua	139935	BC No. 09-018	Rifu Apparel Corp.
Xu, Shujian	149583	BC No. 09-034	Yong Jia Corp.
Yang, Fengxiang	154216	BC No. 09-034	Yong Jia Corp.
Yang, Hanju	118363	BC No. 09-034	Yong Jia Corp.
Yue, Junfang	292546	BC No. 09-018	Rifu Apparel Corp.
Zeng, Shunlin	297211	BC No.09-050	Yong Jia Corp.
Zhang, Chunmei	135682	BC No. 09-034	Yong Jia Corp.
Zhang, Hui	286180	BC No.09-041	Poong In SPN Inc.
Zhang, Meihua	190248	BC No. 09-034	Yong Jia Corp.
Zhang, Xuehua	176083	BC No. 09-034	Yong Jia Corp.
Zheng, Guohua	155707	BC No.09-056	Zhang's Enterprises, Ltd.
Zhi, Yabin	298893	BC No. 09-030	L & S Apparel Corp.
Zhou, Ren	120913	BC No. 09-006	Far Ocean Corporation
Zhou, Tiegang	294128	BC No.09-046	Santos, Jesus

Asia

Snow the latest challenge in China quake recovery

BEIJING (AP)—Homeless earthquake survivors huddled in thin tents against strong winds Thursday while traffic slowed on ice- and snow-slicked roads, the latest challenges to recovery in mountainous far western China. Snow started falling early Thursday in Yushu county, the center of the disaster, and more was expected through Saturday, the state-run Xinhua News Agency reported.

More than three centimeters (1.18 inches) had fallen as of 8 a.m. (0000GMT), Tsering Tashi, deputy head of Yushu’s meteorological bureau, told Xinhua. Thousands of people were left

homeless by the April 14 quake in the remote Tibetan corner of western China. The death toll stood at 2,183 with 84 people still missing Thursday. In Beijing, a spokesman for the Ministry of Civil Affairs said earlier problems in getting aid to the region, a 12-hour drive from the Qinghai provincial capital, had been resolved. The ministry spokesman, Peng Chenmin, also said he didn’t know about an order issued in recent days for thousands of Tibetan monks to leave Yushu after rushing there and being the first to help rescue survivors and bury victims of the disaster.

“After the disaster happened, the central government brought in a large number of rescuers while lots of monks also participated, which can be seen in many media reports,” Peng said. “It’s a good thing which represents the spirit of ethnic unity that Tibetan and Han are from the same family and together we overcome difficulties.” China’s government is dominated by the majority Han Chinese. Yushu is more than 90 percent Tibetan, but amid hours of coverage for the national day of mourning on Wednesday, no monks were visible in the official proceedings.

On the run, Pakistan militants find new haven

ISLAMABAD (AP)—They were never routed, no matter what Pakistan claimed. Instead, the Taliban and al-Qaida fighters have merely relocated. They’re still near the Afghan border. Months after Pakistani troops chased them from South Waziristan, these militants have established a new base farther north under the protection of an insurgent leader who has cut past deals with the Pakistani army, according to residents, militants and reports from Associated Press correspondents who visited recently. The fighters—including Ar-

abs, Chechens and Uzbeks—roam through markets, frequent restaurants and watch jihadi movies or surf the Web at Internet cafes, their weapons propped up against the table. Pakistani troops wave them through checkpoints even though they’re armed with assault rifles and rocket launchers. These are the new VIPs in Pakistan’s most dangerous region, North Waziristan. The influx of these militants in North Waziristan in recent months adds to pressure on the army to launch an offensive there, and raises questions over

its policy of making agreements with Gul Bahadur and other insurgent commanders who threaten U.S. forces in Afghanistan but do not attack targets in Pakistan. Bahadur agreed not to help his fellow militants during last year’s offensive in South Waziristan as part of an understanding reached with the army. In exchange, the army would not attack his territory to the north. Now it appears that this pact has backfired on the army, enabling militants whom Pakistan considers a threat to its security to regroup on Bahadur’s lands.

Anger rises against Red Shirt protests in Bangkok

BANGKOK (AP)—Anger among Bangkok residents mounted Thursday against anti-government protesters who have entrenched themselves in the capital’s commercial district, causing the closure of hotels and offices and disrupting incomes. A loose coalition opposed to the so-called Red Shirts, who are demanding that Prime Minister Abhisit Vejjajiva dissolve Parliament and call new elections immediately, planned a mass rally Friday, further splitting the city into hostile camps. They also were preparing further confrontations with the pro-

testers across an intersection adjacent to their “occupation zone” where angry residents Wednesday night scuffled with Red Shirts and shouted “Give back our city” and “Hillbillies, get out.” The anti-Red Shirt group includes office employees, middle class families, academics, some low-wage workers and members of the Yellow Shirts, a group that supports the current government and who themselves rampaged through Bangkok and seized the city’s airports two years ago. On Thursday, several hundred protesters rallied in front of the regional headquarters of the United

Nations, submitting a request for international peacekeepers to monitor the situation in Thailand. Despite government warnings that the demonstrators would no longer be able to stage marches outside their enclave, authorities did nothing to stop the peaceful rally. In one effort to avert further violence, a letter was received Thursday by the office of King Bhumibol Adulyadej from the head of a pro-Red Shirt political party asking for an audience with a monarch who in the past has stepped in to end violent political crises, the newspaper Matichon reported.

ASIAN BRIEFS

Report: SKorea warned of NKorean submarine attack

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)—Military intelligence officers had warned earlier this year that North Korea was preparing a suicide submarine attack on a South Korean vessel in retaliation for an earlier defeat in a sea battle, a newspaper said Thursday. There has been growing speculation that North Korea was behind the March 26 explosion that split the 1,200-ton Cheonan in two and sank it, killing at least 38 people and leaving eight missing. Seoul has not directly blamed Pyongyang for the blast, and the North has denied involvement, but suspicion remains given the country’s history of provocation and attacks on the South.

Earthquake strikes near Pacific island of Tonga

WELLINGTON, New Zealand (AP)—A 5.9-magnitude earthquake hit near the Pacific island of Tonga on Thursday, but no casualties or damage were reported and no tsunami warning was issued. The quake struck 65 miles (135 kilometers) north-east of Hihifo, Tonga, at a depth of 21 miles (35 ki-

lometers). Many residents of American Samoa felt the quake and went out to look at the ocean while listening to radio broadcasts. “Nothing is registered on our sensors for tsunami waves,” according to Carol Baqui, a forecaster with the American Samoa weather service. No tsunami warning was issued by the Pacific Tsunami Warning Center in Hawaii. **Cargo plane crashes in the Philippines; 3 dead** **MANILA, Philippines (AP)**—A Russian-made cargo plane crashed and burst into flames in a rice field north of the Philippine capital Wednesday as it attempted a landing. Three crew were killed and three pulled out alive from the burning wreckage. The Antonov 12 aircraft was flying from Mactan in the central Philippines and crashed about 22 miles (35 kilometers) south of Clark airport, the former U.S. Air Base near Manila, said Alfonso Cusi, director-general of the Civil Aviation Authority of the Philippines. Firefighters struggled into the night to put out the flames that engulfed the aircraft after it exploded on impact, ripping the plane into two sections, said police Chief Inspector Carlito Fabro.

World

Recriminations erupt in ash-fueled aviation crisis

AMSTERDAM (AP)—Airlines toted up losses topping \$2 billion and struggled to get hundreds of thousands of travelers back home Wednesday after a week of crippled air travel, as questions and recriminations erupted over Europe’s chaotic response to the volcanic ash cloud. Civil aviation authorities defended their decisions to ground fleets and close the skies—and later to reopen them—against heated charges by airline chiefs that the decisions were based on flawed data or unsubstantiated fears.

The aviation crisis sparked by a volcanic eruption in Iceland left millions in flightless limbo, created debilitating losses for airlines and other industries and even threatened Europe’s economic recovery. An aviation group called the financial fallout worse than the three-day worldwide shutdown after the 2001 terrorist attacks in the United States. It was a lesson in mankind’s dependency on air travel, the vulnerability of a vital industry, and the confusion that can ensue when each nation decides for itself how to handle a problem that crosses borders. The air space over most of Europe opened Wednesday after the vast, invisible ash-laden cloud dispersed to levels deemed safe. Restrictions remained over parts of Britain, Ireland, France and the Scandinavian countries.

Electronic boards in Europe’s biggest hubs—London’s Heathrow, Paris’ Charles de Gaulle and Germany’s airport at Frankfurt—showed about 80 percent of flights on schedule as airlines began filling vacant seats with those who had been stranded for days. But with 102,000 flights scrapped worldwide over the last week, it could take over a week to get everyone home. In Iceland, the volcano under the Eyjafjallajokull (ay-yah-FYAH-lah-yeer-kuhl) remained active Wednesday—throwing magma chunks the size of cars into the air, bubbling lava and producing tremors. But it was not shooting ash and smoke four to six miles (6 to 10 kilometers) into the air like it did previously. “There is much, much less ash production and the plume is low,” said Gudrun Nina Petersen, meteorologist at the Icelandic Met Office, adding that mild winds kept the ash away from

Volcanic losses

Analysts say the airline industry is losing \$200 million to \$300 million a day because of flight bans due to Iceland’s volcano. Loss estimates, in millions of U.S. dollars per day:

Selected European airlines

Air France-KLM	\$47
Lufthansa	\$34
British Airways	\$23-\$31
SAS	\$8-\$13
Alitalia	\$12.5

Selected U.S. airlines

Delta	\$7.3
United	\$5.5
American	\$3.0
Continental	\$2.7
US Airways	\$1.5

Selected Asian airlines

Singapore Airlines	\$2.9
Qantas Airways	\$1.4
Air New Zealand	\$0.4
Jet Airways (India)	\$0.2

Source: International Air Transport Association, Boyd Group International, Chicago Tribune, AP, Wall Street Journal
Graphic: Pat Carr © 2010 MCT

crowded air flight corridors. But scientists at Zurich’s Federal Institute of Technology said an initial analysis of samples collected over Zurich last weekend by special weather balloons concluded that safety concerns were warranted and the volcano could be getting more dangerous.

WORLD BRIEFS

Iran begins war games in Strait of Hormuz

TEHRAN, Iran (AP)—Iran’s state television says the country’s elite Revolutionary Guard has started large-scale war games in the strategic Strait of Hormuz. The Thursday report says naval, air and ground units from the Guard will participate in the three-day games codenamed “The Great Prophet.” Iran annually holds military maneuvers in the Persian Gulf and the Strait of Hormuz, a waterway through which some 40 percent of the world’s oil and energy supplies pass through, to show off its military capabilities. This year’s war games, however, could heighten tension at a time when the West is at a deepening standoff with Iran over its nuclear program. The West suspects the program conceals a nuclear arm production drive, a charge that Iran denies.

Clinton in Estonia for NATO meetings

TALLINN, Estonia (AP)—U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton has arrived in the Baltic state of Estonia for a meeting of NATO ministers to discuss Afghanistan and other issues. She arrived slightly later than scheduled after the Iceland volcano’s ash cloud shifted toward Estonia while she was en route from Washington to a refueling stop in Spain. Her plane remained on the ground for a short time after refueling so that it would arrive in Tallinn after sunrise and make it easier for the pilot to avoid any ash cloud. The two-day NATO meeting is to focus on Afghanistan, alliance nuclear

weapons policy and missile defense.

Gunmen abduct 6 from hotels in northern Mexico

MEXICO CITY (AP)—Dozens of gunmen burst into a Holiday Inn and another hotel in the northern industrial city of Monterrey on Wednesday and abducted at least six people, prosecutors said. Nuevo Leon state attorney general Alejandro Garza y Garza said that between 20 and 30 gunmen abducted four guests and a receptionist from the Holiday Inn. The assailants searched at least seven rooms before going to the nearby Hotel Mission where they abducted a receptionist, he said. Garza y Garza said the gunmen had with them a handcuffed man who had apparently led them to the Holiday Inn.

Somali pirates seize ship with 21 Filipinos aboard

NAIROBI, Kenya (AP)—Four suspected Somali pirates carrying AK-47s and a rocket-propelled grenade seized a bulk carrier with 21 crew on board Wednesday, the fourth ship pirates have seized in less than a week, officials said. The Panamanian-flagged, Liberian-owned *Voc Daisy* was taken about 200 miles (300 kilometers) outside the corridor where international warships guard convoys of merchant vessels, said Cmdr. John Harbour, a spokesman for the EU Naval Force. The hijacking of the *Voc Daisy* follows an attack on three Thai fishing vessels Sunday. Pirates now hold 15 vessels and 326 crew, according to an Associated Press count.

Off The Wall

Crocodile forces Australian aerobics class to wait

SYDNEY (AP)—The biweekly water aerobics class at a holiday park in northern Australia was postponed Tuesday when an unwanted guest entered the pool—a 5-foot-long (1.5-meter) crocodile.

Workers at the Howard Springs Holiday Park on the outskirts of the tropi-

cal northern city of Darwin went to the pool to scoop out leaves and otherwise prepare it for the class when they were surprised to find the croc, which had apparently crawled under a fence from a nearby swamp.

“We went down like normal to check the pool out because Tuesdays and

Thursdays the local ladies of Howard Springs do their water aerobics,” park manager Geoff Thompson was quoted as saying on the Australian Broadcasting Corp.’s website.

A government ranger was summoned to remove the visitor, which was identified as a freshwater croco-

dile—generally considered to be capable of giving a nasty bite but rarely fatal to humans.

“They were all there waiting for the ranger to collect it and once he got it out of the water they started their aerobics,” Thompson said.

The crocodile was likely to be hand-

ed to a local wildlife park.

Crocodile numbers have burgeoned in northern Australia since hunting that pushed the animal almost to extinction was banned in 1971. Attacks on humans have increased, with four people killed by crocodiles in seven months from 2008 to early 2009.

Mustache advocacy group seeks tax break



This May 22, 2009 file photo shows Lutz Giasa, left, and Karl-Heinz Hiller, both of Berlin, Germany, in a downtown Anchorage, Alaska, park before the start of a parade kicking off the 2009 World Beard and Moustache Championships. **AP**

ST. LOUIS (AP)—It’s time that mustached Americans got in on the stimulus money. At least that’s the proposal being pushed by tax policy professor John Yeutter and the St. Louis-based American Mustache Institute. The tongue-in-cheek group dubs itself “the world’s only facial hair advocacy and research organization.”

On the eve of the deadline to file income tax returns, the professor and

the AMI are pushing for a \$250 annual tax incentive for people with mustaches. The funds would be used for mustache grooming supplies.

The AMI said the current system “provides a disincentive for the clean-shaven to enjoy the mustached American lifestyle.”

The AMI said the stimulus money could be used not only for trimming instruments but for wax, combs and mirrors.

Vermont bear with head stuck in milk can rescued

READING, Vt. (AP)—A 120-pound Vermont black bear is back in the woods after getting its head stuck in a milk can. It took a state biologist, firefighters and police about 45 minutes to free the bear’s head from the can after the animal was found late Sunday morning off Vermont Route 106 in the town of Reading.

The Rutland Herald said officials estimate the bear had its head stuck in the old fashioned milk can for at least six hours before it was found.

Fish and Wildlife Biologist Forrest Hammond said the bear had been running and bumping into trees and boulders.

Hammond used soap to lubricate the bear’s head so the can could be pulled off, but it didn’t work. Firefighters helped him cut the can off.



In this Sunday, April 18, 2010 photo released by the Vermont Department of Fish and Wildlife, a 120-pound Vermont black bear is seen with its head stuck in a milk can in Reading, Vt. **AP**

Security camera in Ohio captures runaway saw blade

LORAIN, Ohio (AP)—A home security camera in Ohio has captured a construction mishap that could have been a lot worse. Video from the camera shows a large blade spinning off a saw being used to cut through a street. The blade then rolled through a yard and ended up leaving a 3-foot gash in the side of an empty house in Lorain, 26 miles west of Cleveland.

Rachel Gayhart said she and her husband checked their

video Monday to see why the street work wasn’t finished. She said the blade missed a gas meter on the side of the neighboring house by only two feet.

The video shows a construction worker retrieving the runaway blade and putting it back on the saw.

Lorain officials said the firm doing the work under contract for the city is investigating the incident.

OFFBEAT BRIEFS

Breaching whale capsizes Mass. canoe, drowning man

PROVINCETOWN, Mass. (AP)—A whale has leaped above the water and capsized a canoe in Massachusetts, drowning one of two men aboard the 12-foot vessel. U.S. Coast Guard Petty Officer 3rd Class Connie Terrell says the men were left struggling in the cold water Wednesday morning after a whale breached near them. Biologists consider breaching a form of communication or play. Terrell says the men were rescued by a vessel owned by a boat rental company in Provincetown. The Cape Cod Times reports that a 47-year-old man drowned after the canoe capsized.

Dying man sells advertising space on his urn

SPRINGFIELD, Ore. (AP)—A Springfield man with colon cancer who has been told he has just months to live is selling advertising space on his urn. Aaron Jamison told KVAL-TV he hopes to raise \$800 to help his wife Kristin pay for the cost of his cremation. One friend, restaurant owner Dustin Remington, has already paid \$100 for an ad. Jamison plans to hand-paint the ad on his urn.

Security camera in Ohio captures runaway saw blade

LORAIN, Ohio (AP)—A home security camera has captured a runaway saw blade shooting through a northern Ohio yard and into the side of a house.

Video from the camera shows a large blade spinning off a saw being used to cut through a street. The blade then rolls through a yard and leaves a 3-foot gash in the side of an empty house in Lorain, a town about 25 miles west of Cleveland. Rachel Gayhart says she and her husband checked their video Monday to see why the street work wasn’t finished. She says the blade missed a gas meter on the side of the neighboring house by two feet. The video shows a construction worker retrieving the runaway blade and putting it back on the saw. Lorain officials say the firm doing the work under contract for the city is investigating.

Woman, 89, grabs handgun and fires at intruder

DES MOINES, Iowa (AP)—An elderly Des Moines woman used a handgun to ward off a man who bashed in the front door of her home. Beatrice Turner said the man pounded on her door early Tuesday. Despite being told he had the wrong house, the man used his fists to break through the wood door. The 89-year-old Turner said she grabbed a handgun and told the man she would shoot if he came inside. When the man entered, she fired a single shot. A neighbor called police, who found 37-year old Nelson McAlpine standing on Turner’s front lawn. The uninjured McAlpine was arrested on a charge of second-degree burglary. McAlpine is being held in the Polk County Jail in lieu of \$10,000 bond. It wasn’t im-

mediately determined if he has a lawyer.

Fake IRS agent ordered to pay hotel \$55,000

NOVATO, Calif. (AP)—A woman accused of accruing thousands of dollars in bills at a Marin County hotel while pretending to be an IRS agent has been sentenced to five years probation and ordered to pay \$55,000 to the hotel owners. Chief U.S. District Judge Vaughn Walker in San Francisco sentenced Sherry Lynn Vertoch on Tuesday. Vertoch pleaded guilty in February to impersonating a federal officer. Authorities said the woman, who is in her 60s, stopped paying her bills at the Inn Marin in Novato in 2008, telling one of the hotel’s owners she was a contract worker with the IRS and wouldn’t be paid until she finished an investigation for the agency. She allegedly urged the owners to write a letter to the IRS when they periodically sought payment. Prosecutors had recommended probation for Vertoch over prison time.

Utah woman sentenced in ‘surprise’ hammer beating

SALT LAKE CITY (AP)—A Utah woman has been sentenced to 30 days at home with an ankle monitor for blindfolding her husband and promising him a surprise before hitting him in the head with a hammer three years ago. Amy Teresa Ricks also was sentenced to probation and community service Monday in 3rd District Court. The 37-year-old pleaded guilty to second-degree felony

aggravated assault in February. Prosecutors have agreed to reduce the conviction to a third-degree felony after Ricks completes probation. They also agreed to let Ricks seek expungement of the crime after seven years. Ricks’ husband suffered minor injuries in the May 2007 attack. At the time of her plea, Ricks’ defense attorney said the two were still married but were separated.

Ark. family learns the hard way gar eggs are toxic

HEBER SPRINGS, Ark. (AP)—Take it from Darwin Aaron and his family in Cleburne County: gar eggs are poisonous. Tiffany Aaron said her husband, Darwin, and brother-in-law, Russell Aaron, took a long-nosed gar while spearfishing at Greers Ferry Lake on April 5. Gar meat is edible, so they figured they’d try the roe. They prepared the eggs that evening, with Darwin and Russell Aaron eating some, along with Darwin and Tiffany’s 10-year-old son, Carson. Carson was the first to start vomiting at about 1:30 a.m. Russell and Darwin soon were sick, too. Tiffany Aaron looked online and read that gar eggs are poisonous. All three family members recovered after a few days. The Arkansas Game and Fish Commission said eggs from all gar species are highly toxic.

Worker punched after confronting man about odor

BELLINGHAM, Wash. (AP)—Police said a Cost Cutter store employee

was punched in the mouth after he confronted a customer about his body odor. Police spokesman Mark Young told The Bellingham Herald that police went to the store after a report of a fight and found employees holding down a man. The newspaper said customers apparently complained while the man was in the store Sunday, and the employee decided to discuss it with him when he returned the next day. Young said the store employee was not going to ask him to leave the store, but only approached him to share the complaints. Young said the man snapped and threw a bunch of batteries and punched the worker, causing a minor injury.

Pulitzer-prize winning photog foils bank robbery

SAN JOSE, Calif. (AP)—A former globe-trotting photographer from California who won a Pulitzer Prize has added a new adventure to his resume - crime fighter. Kim Komenich, who now teaches at San Jose State University, was at a Wells Fargo bank in San Jose on Monday when he saw a teller being robbed. San Jose police say the 53-year-old - who is 6 feet 2 inches tall and weighs 260 pounds—grabbed the man in a bear hug and held him for five minutes until officers arrived. Komenich was a photographer for the *San Francisco Examiner* when he won a Pulitzer Prize in 1987 covering the revolution that toppled Philippine President Ferdinand Marcos. He later worked for the *San Francisco Chronicle*.

Science & Technology

Add a chat room to your Web site

By CRAIG CROSSMAN
MCCLATCHY-TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

Most businesses today have Web sites and e-mail. Not having an online presence in today's competitive business world is tantamount to not having a phone number or fax machine. Communications and accessibility are the keys and eliminating any one of these vectors to and from your business is a recipe for disaster.

I have a national radio talk show and one of the more popular things I do on my Web site is hosting a live chat room. Having a chat room is a wonderful way to let the people who frequent your Web site interact with each other. Of course, depending on what it is that you do, this may or may not be something desirable. For my purposes, it's great. And while it may not be immediately

apparent to you, think about it for a while. Of course there are businesses where customer interaction may not be advisable such as a law or medical office.

Then again, since chat rooms can be set up to be anonymous, an exchange of ideas between the people with whom you do business might be a good idea.

Obviously only you can be the one to make that determination. If you do decide to give it a try, there are several Web sites that offer chat room applications. The one I use on my Computer America radio talk show is add-onChat from add-onInteractive technology.

Recently upgraded, add-onChat lets you run an interactive chat room directly from your Web site. With a minimal

amount of effort, you can have your users sign in to the chat room by typing in any screen name of their choosing and protecting it with a password so that only they can use that name.

Pretty much all browsers today are Java-enabled. The add-onChat client uses a small Java applet application that

seamlessly integrates to the participant's browser. Once they sign in, they are presented with a new chat room window complete with little function icons and the chat window. The main window is the actual chat room that displays what everyone in the room is typing to each other. The area directly below is where you type in your messages and the area to the right is where you see the names of

everyone who is participating in the chat room.

The features of add-onChat are quite impressive in that you as the administrator can exercise total control of your participants. If anyone gets out of line, you can kick them out temporarily or ban them from ever coming back. The latter banishment works via a combination of keeping track of user IP addresses and placing cookies on their browsers. There's also a bad language filter that prevents someone from typing something obscene. You can edit and add the words which you wish to ban.

Other features let you customize the chat room's appearance such as font color and size. Participants can also choose from a variety of emoticons such as little smiling faces, and sound effects that can alert users

to something being typed.

Participants can also send private messages to other users. Double clicking on a screen name opens a new little window into which you can send messages directly to the other person. Users can also choose to ignore other users or highlight them so that they stand out from the other participants.

add-onChat comes in a free version so that you can check things out before you buy. It's a nice way to get things started. If you decide this is something you want to pursue, you can upgrade to the Professional Edi-

tion, which goes for \$80 a year. The company offers other versions as well as add-on modules that for example, display where each chat member is physically located. add-onChat works with any Java-enabled browser in Windows, Macintosh and Linux.

Craig Crossman is a national newspaper columnist writing about computers and technology. He also hosts the No. 1 daily national computer radio talk show, Computer America, heard on the Business TalkRadio Network and the Lifestyle TalkRadio Network—Monday through Friday, 10 p.m.-midnight ET. For more information, visit his web site at www.computeramerica.com.

ON THE NET

www.addonchat.com

Web resources for managing credit

By REID KANALEY
THE PHILADELPHIA INQUIRER

We might have avoided some of the trouble of the recent financial meltdown if more of us had properly managed our personal credit. Here are sites that provide guidance on doing just that.

PAYING BACK

<http://go.philly.com/managedcredit1>

The how-to guides at Yahoo.com include this crash course in managing debt and credit. The main point, you may have guessed, is to keep from getting deep into debt by consistently using credit cards to spend more than you earn. The article explains the world of difference between installment debt and revolving credit, with additional warnings on the potential high cost of spreading repayment of revolving credit over years or decades.

IT ADDS UP

www.italladdsup.org

This site designed for teaching teenagers how to manage money offers "games" that many adults would benefit from playing in order to learn the steps to minding their credit and doing some



We might have avoided some of the trouble of the recent financial meltdown if more of us had properly managed our personal credit.

responsible financial planning. The "Buying a Car" game, for example, has you picking a car with some careful consideration

of needs and budget matters. A teaching guide also suggests making it real with use of the Kelly Blue Book and Consumer

Reports Online sites.

FREE CREDIT REPORT

www.annualcreditreport.com

Yes, you are entitled to free credit reports annually from Experian, Equifax and TransUnion. But, to avoid getting hoodwinked into signing up for some service that will cost you, make your requests through this site set up by the reporting agencies.

READING THAT REPORT

www.ftc.gov/freereports

The Federal Trade Commission explains what's up with credit reports, how to read them, and why it recommends the above site for obtaining them.

SIXTY-SECOND GUIDE

<http://go.philly.com/managedcredit2>

The Motley Fool site has posted this "60-second guide to managing your credit," though you'll have to be a faster reader than we are to make that deadline. The Fools recommend, in one seven-second message, that your total debts should not exceed 15 percent of your after-tax income. A good piece of advice here is to simply ask your lender for easier terms.

McAfee antivirus program goes berserk, freezes PCs

NEW YORK (AP)—Computers in companies, hospitals and schools around the world got stuck repeatedly rebooting themselves Wednesday after an antivirus program identified a normal Windows file as a virus.

McAfee Inc. confirmed that a software update it posted at 9 a.m. Eastern time caused its antivirus program for corporate customers to misidentify a harmless file. It has posted a replacement

update for download.

McAfee could not say how many computers were affected, but judging by online postings, the number was at least in the thousands and possibly in the hundreds of thousands.

McAfee said it did not appear that consumer versions of its software caused similar problems. It is investigating how the error happened "and will take measures" to prevent it from recurring, the company said in a statement.

The computer problem forced about a third of the hospitals in Rhode Island to postpone elective surgeries and stop treating patients without traumas in emergency rooms, said Nancy Jean, a spokeswoman for the Lifespan system of hospitals. The system includes Rhode Island Hospital, the state's largest, and Newport Hospital. Jean said patients who required treatment for gunshot wounds, car accidents, blunt trauma and other potentially fatal injuries were

still being admitted to the emergency rooms.

In Kentucky, state police were told to shut down the computers in their patrol cars as technicians tried to fix the problem. The National Science Foundation headquarters in Arlington, Va., also lost computer access.

Intel Corp. appeared to be among the victims, according to employee posts on Twitter. Intel did not immediately return calls for comment.

TECH Q&A

Simple settings change can prevent frequent hibernation

By STEVE ALEXANDER
STAR TRIBUNE (MINNEAPOLIS)

QUESTION: I've been using my wife's computer, which has a default setting that turns off programs such as e-mail after five minutes. Then I have to sign in again. Is there a way to change this setting?—Eldon Brown, Miami

ANSWER: You're getting logged off as a side effect of the PC going into "sleep mode" after five minutes of PC inactivity, a feature that's designed to save energy.

You can either turn off the sleep mode setting or change it to make the PC remain idle longer before going to sleep. If you've got a laptop, you can set two sleep mode settings: one for when it's plugged in and you have unlimited power, and one for when it's unplugged and you want to save your battery.

To adjust your power settings for Windows 7, see tinyurl.com/yeaszpf and click on "How can I prevent my computer from automatically sleeping or hibernating?" For Vista, see tinyurl.com/yclaqqe and click the same phrase. For XP, see tinyurl.com/yc62jw7. ("Sleep" doesn't completely turn off the PC; "hibernate" does.)

■ ■ ■

Q: Can you suggest a free program to create a slide show from my .jpeg photos that can be played on a TV using a DVD player? I'm using Windows XP on a fairly new computer, but don't plan to upgrade the operating system.—Carol Wilson, Bloomington, Minn.

A: Free slide show programs tend to be more limited than that. They can create slide shows to view on your PC, but they usually don't let you burn the slide show to a DVD. If you want to buy a slide show program that burns DVDs, here are two that have been highly rated on Cnet, a technology website:

■ Ulead CD & DVD PictureShow, \$49.99 with a 15-day free trial, downloaded 195,600 times. Find it at tinyurl.com/yak6936.

■ DVD Photo Slideshow Professional, \$59.95 with a 36-photo free trial, downloaded 133,000 times. Find it at tinyurl.com/y8fs8xr.

■ ■ ■

Q: Something called "Windows XP Security Tool—Unregistered Version" pops up and starts scanning my Windows XP PC (updated with Service Pack 3). Is there a way to prevent this?—Afolabi Sanni, Minneapolis

A: It isn't a "security tool." It's malicious software trying to convince you that your PC is infected with computer worms, viruses and the like, and that you should buy the full program to remove them. To get rid of it, download the free Microsoft Security Essentials program (works on Windows XP with Service Pack 2 or higher) at tinyurl.com/kwsxcu. Use it to scan and remove any malicious software on your PC. If that doesn't work, see tinyurl.com/ykqps6 for how to restore Windows XP settings to an earlier time.

Steve Alexander covers technology for the Minneapolis Star Tribune. Readers may write to him at Tech Q&A, 425 Portland Ave. S., Minneapolis, Minn. 55488-0002; e-mail: steve.j.alexander@gmail.com. Please include a full name, city and phone number.

Life & Style

'Idol' loses another finalist



AP
In this publicity image released by Fox, contestant Tim Urban performs on the singing competition series, "American Idol," Tuesday, April 13, 2010 in Los Angeles.

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Not enough "American Idol" viewers were inspired to vote for Tim Urban.

The 20-year-old college student from Duncanville, Texas, was eliminated from the ninth season of the Fox singing competition Wednesday at the end

of the "Idol Gives Back" charity event. Urban, who wasn't at his best with his version of the Goo Goo Dolls' "Better Days" on Tuesday's inspirational-themed performance show, received the fewest viewer votes.

"Keep that smile alive," host Ryan Seacrest told the unflap-

pable singer.

Despite serving as a last-minute semifinalist replacement and receiving constant criticism in the early stages of the finals, Urban deftly evaded dismissal for several weeks—and kept grinning the entire time. In recent weeks, he won over the show's judges with subtle performances, garnering the most praise for his rendition of The Beatles' "All My Loving."

Joining Urban in the bottom three were 27-year-old musician Casey James of Fort Worth, Texas, and spunky 17-year-old high school student Aaron Kelly of Sonestown, Pa. James was panned for his unoriginal interpretation of Fleetwood Mac's "Don't Stop," while Kelly failed to soar with his less-than-inspired rendition of R. Kelly's "I Believe I Can Fly."

Urban's elimination capped the third "Idol" charity event. "Idol Gives Back," which has raised more than \$140 million since its 2007 launch, will benefit Children's Health Fund,

Feud between Goldberg, Stewart ensues

NEW YORK (AP)—Things are getting rough between Fox News Channel commentator Bernard Goldberg and comic Jon Stewart.

Stewart brought a gospel choir on to "The Daily Show" to curse the media critic out a night after Goldberg told him to "find some guts."

Round Three is scheduled with another Goldberg appearance on "The O'Reilly Factor." Goldberg said Wednesday, after watching Stewart's routine, that he found him "funny" but a "phony."

It was during an interview with O'Reilly that Goldberg, a journalist who has written books accusing the media of a liberal bias, made things personal.

Last week, a segment on



AP
In this March 12, 2009 file photo, Jon Stewart hosts a taping of Comedy Central's "The Daily Show with Jon Stewart" in New York.

Stewart's "The Daily Show" responded to statements by Fox News commentators criticizing Tea Party opponents for judging the movement based on the bad actions of a few. Stewart played tape of Fox commentators, including Goldberg, making generalizations about liberals.

Goldberg pleaded guilty. But he responded Monday by urging Stewart to be as tough on his liberal guests as he is on conservatives.

"If you just want to be a funnyperson, who talks to an audience who will laugh at anything you say, that's OK with me, no problem," he said. "But clearly you want to be a social commentator, more than just a comedian, and if you want to be a good one, you better find some guts."

ASCAP honors Jason Mraz, Patti Smith, the Killers

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Lukasz "Dr. Luke" Gottwald and Jason Mraz are tops in song writing.

Gottwald was named songwriter of the year and Mraz received song of the year honors Wednesday at the American Society of Composers, Authors and Publishers' 27th annual Pop Music Awards.

The awards recognize the writers and publishers of ASCAP's most performed songs of the year.

Gottwald wrote five of the top hits of 2009, including Katy

Perry's "Hot N Cold," Miley Cyrus' "Party in the USA" and Flo Rida's "Right Round." Mraz's song, "I'm Yours," holds the record for the most weeks spent on Billboard's Hot 100 chart: 76 and counting.

The honors for publisher of the year went to EMI Music Publishing, which had 15 award-winning songs in 2009.

Patti Smith received the organization's Founders Award. ASCAP president and chairman Paul Williams called Smith "a songwriter, poet,

trailblazer and rock icon whose creative genius and rock 'n' roll spirit will continue to inspire generations to come."

Previous winners of that honor include Bob Dylan, Billy Joel, Annie Lennox, Tom Waits, Stevie Wonder and Joni Mitchell.

The Killers were presented with the Vanguard Award, which recognizes genres that help shape the future of American music. Past winners include the Beastie Boys, Modest Mouse, Nine Inch Nails and Jack Johnson.

Feeding America, Malaria No More, the United Nations Foundation and Save the Children's U.S. programs this year. Viewers were asked to donate throughout the broadcast.

Celebrities such as Jennifer Garner and Morgan Freeman appeared in segments showcasing the charities' work. The Black Eyed Peas, Mary J. Blige, Alicia Keys, Elton John and other

musicians performed from the Pasadena Civic Auditorium. Annie Lennox, who was stranded in London because of the volcanic ash travel disruptions, performed in a pre-taped appearance.

Muslim group warns 'South Park' creators of death

NEW YORK (AP)—A radical Muslim group has warned the creators of "South Park" that they could face violent retribution for depicting the prophet Muhammad in a bear suit during last week's episode.

The website RevolutionMuslim.com has since been taken down, but a cached version shows the message to "South Park" creators Trey Parker and Matt Stone. The article's author, Abu Talhah Al-Amrikee, said the men "outright insult-

ed" the religious leader.

The posting showed a gruesome picture of Theo Van Gogh, a Dutch filmmaker who was shot and stabbed to death in an Amsterdam street in 2004 by a fanatic angered by his film about Muslim women. The film was written by a Muslim woman who rejected the Prophet Muhammad as a guide for today's morality.

"We have to warn Matt and Trey that what they are doing

is stupid and they will probably wind up like Theo Van Gogh for airing this show," Al-Amrikee wrote. "This is not a threat, but a warning of the reality of what will likely happen to them."

The posting listed the addresses of Comedy Central's New York office and Parker and Stone's California production office. It also linked to a Huffington Post article that described a Colorado retreat owned by the two men.

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NOW SHOWING



The Losers

Friday		4:05	7:10	9:55
Saturday	1:30	4:05	7:10	9:55
Sunday	1:30	4:05	7:10	
Mon thru Thurs		4:05	7:10	

Zoe Saldana, Chris Evans
Action • Rated PG 13

Synopsis

An explosive action tale of betrayal and revenge, "The Losers" centers around the members of an elite Special Forces unit sent to the Bolivian jungle on a search and destroy mission. But the team—Clay, Jensen, Roque, Pooch and Cougar—soon find that they have become the target of a deadly double cross, instigated from the inside by a powerful enemy known only as Max.



The Back-up Plan

Friday		4:00	7:00	9:30
Saturday	1:00	4:00	7:00	9:30
Sunday	1:00	4:00	7:00	
Mon thru Thurs		4:00	7:00	

Jennifer Lopez, Alex O'Loughlin
Romance, Comedy • Rated PG 13

Synopsis

A single woman opts for artificial insemination after dating for years and failing to find the right guy, only to see the man of her dreams breeze into her life just as she learns she's pregnant. Zoe (Jennifer Lopez) is well aware that her biological clock is ticking, but she just can't find the type of guy she'd want to settle down and start a family with. Eventually, she makes the decision to become a single mother. The very same day that Zoe is artificially inseminated, however, she meets Stan (Alex O'Loughlin), a single charmer whom she thinks would make a great father.



The Last Song

Friday		4:20	7:05	9:40
Saturday	1:05	4:20	7:05	9:40
Sunday	1:05	4:20	7:05	
Mon thru Thurs		4:20	7:05	

Miley Cyrus, Liam Hemsworth
Drama • Rated PG

The Bounty Hunter

Friday		4:15	7:15	10:00
Saturday	1:15	4:15	7:15	10:00
Sunday	1:15	4:15	7:15	
Mon thru Thurs		4:15	7:15	

Jennifer Aniston, Gerald Butler
Comedy • Rated PG 13



Kick-Ass

Friday		4:30	7:25	9:50
Saturday	1:10	4:30	7:25	9:50
Sunday	1:10	4:30	7:25	
Mon thru Thurs		4:30	7:25	

Aaron Johnson, Nicolas Cage
Action • Rated R

Synopsis

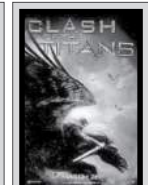
Mark Millar's violent comic tale of wannabe superheroes is adapted by writer/director Matthew Vaughn (Layer Cake) with this Marv Films production. Aaron Johnson stars as a teen who steps out of his house one day with a mask and a painted baseball bat and starts to fight crime even though he has no superpowers. Lyndsy Fonseca co-stars as the character's object of desire, with Nicolas Cage also appearing as an ex-cop whose hatred of a drug lord forces him to train his daughter to be a lethal vigilante.



Date Night

Friday		4:10	7:30	9:35
Saturday	1:20	4:10	7:30	9:35
Sunday	1:20	4:10	7:30	
Mon thru Thurs		4:10	7:30	

Steve Carrell, Tina Fey
Comedy • Rated PG 13



Clash Of The Titans

Friday		4:25	7:20	9:45
Saturday	1:25	4:25	7:20	9:45
Sunday	1:25	4:25	7:20	
Mon thru Thurs		4:25	7:20	

Sam Worthington, Liam Neeson
Fantasy • Rated PG 13

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Coroner: Death of Marie Osmond's son a suicide

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Coroner's officials say the death of Marie Osmond's son has been ruled a suicide and that drugs or alcohol didn't play a role in the teen's fall from a balcony.

Authorities had suspected that Michael Bryan killed himself by leaping from an eight-story balcony in Los Angeles in February.



This undated file photo provided by the family shows Michael Bryan, son of Marie Osmond. Coroner's officials on Wednesday, April 21, 2010 said Bryan's death has been ruled a suicide and that drugs or alcohol didn't play a role in the teen's fall from a balcony in February.

The 18-year-old college student left behind a suicide note, but the coroner's office wanted toxicology results before ruling on his cause of death. The findings were released Wednesday.

Bryan was one of five children that Osmond and her ex-

husband adopted. Her publicist, Nicole Perez, was not immediately available for comment.

Osmond and her brother, Donny, took a brief break from their Las Vegas show before returning with a teary tribute to Bryan in March.

Hollywood studios cut trash production

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Hollywood is producing less trash these days—40 million pounds less.

The Solid Waste Task Force says major movie studios collectively diverted 66 percent of studio sets and other solid waste from landfills in an industrywide effort to be more environmentally friendly.

MPAA President Bob Pisanos said Wednesday the joint effort by the Motion Picture Association of America and

the Alliance of Motion Picture and Television Producers has reached "an all-time high" in recycling and reusing since it began in the early 1990s.

Disney will donate of a portion of ticket sales for its new film "Oceans" to support coral reef conservation. Fox is marking Earth Day's 40th anniversary and the DVD release of "Avatar" with a pledge to plant a million trees around the world by the end of 2010.

Locklear cited for hit-and-run in 4am crash

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Heather Locklear has a court date next month on misdemeanor hit-and-run charges after an early-morning crash knocked down a street sign.

Ventura County Sheriff's Captain Eric Dowd says Locklear was cited and released Saturday after a resident reported hearing a crash around 4 a.m. An investigation led police to Locklear, whom they believe was behind the wheel at the time of the crash.

Blair Berk, an attorney for the 48-year-old actress, confirmed Locklear was cited as the car's registered owner but said "it is not yet clear who was driving the vehicle."

The matter will be heard May 17 at Simi Valley Court, Dowd said.

Locklear was arrested in 2008 for driving under the influence of prescription drugs. She pleaded guilty to a lesser charge of reckless driving in January 2009.



In this June 12, 2009 file photo, Heather Locklear arrives at the Women in Film Crystal Lucy Awards in Los Angeles.

Letterman making 'Live' visit with Regis and Kelly



AP In this Jan. 17, 2008 file photo, television talk show host David Letterman walks out of The Ed Sullivan Theater during a taping of "The Late Show with David Letterman", in New York.

NEW YORK (AP)—Late night will meet morning again when David Letterman drops in next week on "Live with Regis and Kelly."

"Live" officials say the CBS "Late Show" host will join Regis Philbin and Kelly Ripa (RIH'-pub) on April 30. That'll be his first visit since Philbin returned to the air after heart surgery in April 2007.

During that appearance, the two compared scars and swapped stories about their bypass operations.

Other stars lined up for "Live" guest shots include Robert Downey Jr. on April 29, with Betty White, Gwyneth Paltrow, Tom Selleck and Russell Crowe appearing the following week.

"Live" is syndicated and airs on weekday mornings.

ENTERTAINMENT TIDBITS

Casting Crowns wins artist of year at Dove Awards

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (AP)—Top-selling Christian rock act Casting Crowns has won artist of the year at the 41st annual Dove Awards. The band had its five-year run as group of the year snapped earlier Wednesday evening by NEEDTOBREATHE, but came away with the Doves' biggest award thanks to their popularity with fans, who voted in the category. Fans also voted for new artist of the year winner Sidewalk Prophets. Casting Crowns' "Until The Whole World Hears" debuted at No. 4 on the Billboard 200, the highest Nielsen SoundScan entry for any Christian music album.

NEEDTOBREATHE was the big winner with three Doves, including rock/contemporary album of the year for "The Outsiders" and rock/contemporary song for "Lay 'Em Down." The ceremony will air Sunday on GMC.

Ex-partner says gracious goodbye to rapper Guru

NEW YORK (AP)—The former partner of rapper Guru has bid a gracious goodbye to his one-time Gang Starr sidekick, despite a deathbed letter from Guru that dismissed their friendship. Guru died Monday of cancer at age 47. Producer DJ Premier issued a farewell statement Wednesday, following Guru's posthumous

online proclamation, which said that he didn't wish for DJ Premier to have anything to do with his name. DJ Premier responded to Guru by saying, "Our time together was beautiful, we built a Hip Hop legacy together, and no one can rewrite history or take away my love for him." DJ Premier continued: "It was a sad day for me to get confirmation on the death of man who I will continue to call my brother."

Holbrook performs in Mark Twain's beloved NY town

ELMIRA, N.Y. (AP)—Hal Holbrook has performed on stage as Mark Twain far longer than Twain himself did. His 56 years of one-man shows called

"Mark Twain Tonight!" reached a milestone in Elmira, N.Y., on Wednesday, the centenary of the author's death. The upstate city is where Twain wrote most of his best-known works, from his "Adventures of Huckleberry Finn" masterpiece to "Life on the Mississippi," a memoir of his days as a steamboat pilot. The Emmy Award-winning Holbrook has been gluing on a bushy mustache and pontificating in a gravelly twang since his first full-fledged Twain impersonation in 1954. The 85-year-old actor didn't need to pencil in wrinkles before the curtain went up Wednesday at a renovated vaudeville theater bearing the humorist's real name, Samuel L. Clemens.

College neatnik sacrifices fun for a squeaky clean apartment

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE



DEAR ABBY: I have been overly neat since I was in middle school. I am now in college and feel I have reached the breaking point because I'm such a neat freak. I love having everything neat and tidy, but I now spend less time being a 22-year-old and more time cleaning, scrubbing and organizing.

I can't sleep if I know there is clutter somewhere in the apartment. I have passed up going out with friends if my apartment isn't perfect. Everything has a place and a label. It's getting tiring because I realize I haven't had any good wholesome fun in a long time. I wish I could relax and be OK with clutter like everyone else, instead of wasting my life cleaning. Any advice?

Dear Abby

OVERLY ORGANIZED IN TEXAS

DEAR OVERLY ORGANIZED: Yes, I do. March yourself to the student health center and discuss this with a counselor there. When the compulsion to have your apartment "perfect" trumps your ability to enjoy your life, it's time to accept that you have gone from neat to obsessive. There is treatment for the problem, and once it begins you will be able to relax and let go of your anxiety. So please don't wait to get the help you need.

DEAR ABBY: I'm a 20-year-old female who has been dating my boyfriend, "Will," for three years. Our long-distance relationship was going along just fine until the topic of his 21st birthday came up recently. Will mentioned in passing that he's planning on going to a strip club with friends to celebrate this momentous birthday.

Will says he just likes to look at women, that all men do and it's completely fine. He didn't seem to care how I felt about it. His mind was already made up. He wants me to be more accepting of who he is, but it turns my stomach to think of him hanging out at a strip club.

Abby, is a young man in a committed relationship going to a strip club to drink and view naked women "normal"? Should I not take this so personally? Or am I right to see this as a lack of commitment to me?

OFFENDED IN FORT COLLINS, COLO.

DEAR OFFENDED: If your boyfriend had attempted to hide his plans from you, or if he was planning on frequenting strip clubs alone and often, I'd say you should feel threatened. But he was open about going out to celebrate his "momentous" birthday with his friends—and plenty of women have been known to visit clubs with male dancers. So calm down. This has nothing to do with his "commitment" to you.

DEAR ABBY: I am 42 years old and being married for the first time in October. My parents divorced more than 20 years ago and both remarried. My father will walk me down the aisle.

Dad lost my stepmother two years ago, and is still having a hard time with it emotionally. Because of my age, I don't expect anything from my parents except their emotional support.

If it's all right with my parents, do you think it would be appropriate to put on the invitations, "In lieu of gifts, please make a donation to the American Cancer Society in memory of (my stepmother's name)"?

LOVING DAUGHTER IN ARLINGTON, TEXAS

DEAR LOVING DAUGHTER: You are a sweetheart to think of it, but doing so would be a huge breach of etiquette. In fact, any mention of gifts on a wedding invitation is a no-no. The way to handle it is, when asked where you are registered for gifts, to verbally inform the questioner what your wishes are.

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

What teens need to know about sex, drugs, AIDS and getting along with peers and parents is in "What Every Teen Should Know." To order, send a business-sized, self-addressed envelope, plus check or money order for \$6 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby—Teen Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Postage is included in the price.)

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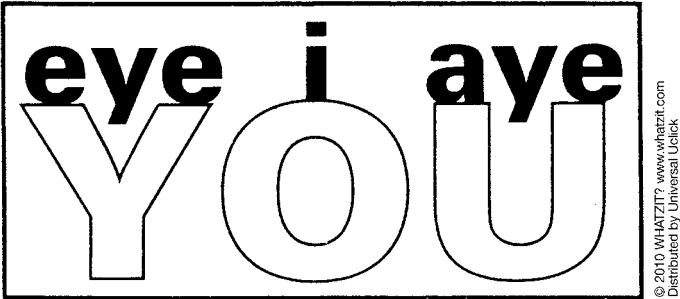
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Northern Mariana Islands RETIREMENT FUND
"Investing For The Future Financial Security Of Our Members"
JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT JVA10-002
FUND LEGAL COUNSEL
OPENING DATE: **March 26, 2010** CLOSING DATE: **Until Filled**
The NMI Retirement Fund is seeking a professional and motivated individual to work in a challenging environment as a Legal Counsel for the Fund. Salary maximum is \$70,000, depending on experience. Benefits are commensurate with the responsibilities assigned to the successful candidate and in compliance with CNMI laws.
Interested applicants must submit their **application, resume, educational credentials, police clearance and others** as outlined in the JVA package. The complete package is available from the Fund, located on Capitol Hill, Saipan; or by e-mail through the Fund Administrator. **Mailed and hand delivered packages must be marked "JVA10-002 Confidential," and must have the applicant's name and return address on the outside of the envelope.**
Mark Aguon, Administrator
NMI Retirement Fund
P.O. Box 501247
Saipan, MP 96950-1247
E-mail: administrator01@nmiretirement.com



Commonwealth Utilities Corporation

Office of the Executive Director



INVITATION FOR BID

CUC-IFB-10-029
(Re-Bid of CUC-IFB-10-019)

SUPPLY OF FUEL FOR LIGHT VEHICLE AND HEAVY EQUIPMENT

The Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC), is soliciting sealed bids from vendors to supply fuel for CUC's light vehicle and heavy equipment on Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. CUC requires diesel and unleaded gasoline to be available twenty-four (24) hours a day and during emergency situations.

The Scope-of-Work may be picked up at CUC, Procurement & Supply Office at Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, 3rd Floor, Room No. 4, between 7:30 AM to 11:30 AM and 12:30 PM to 4:00 PM, Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays.

One (1) original and five (5) copies must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked **"IFB-10-029, Supply of Fuel for Light Vehicle and Heavy Equipment"** to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 4, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220 Saipan, MP 96950, **no later than April 28, 2010 at 10:00 AM (CHST) local time**, at which time they will be publicly opened and read aloud. Late submissions and conditional bids will not be considered.

Selection procedure shall be in full compliance with CUC Procurement Regulations. CUC reserves the right to reject any or all bids and waive any imperfection in the bid proposal in the interest of the government. All Bids shall become the property of CUC.

All inquiries must be submitted in writing, no later than April 26, 2010, 10:00 AM (CHST), local time, to Manny B. Sablan, Jr. Purchasing Officer, via email at msablan@cucgov.net and Mrs. Deborah Fisher, CUC Legal Counsel at attorney.fisher@gmail.com.

/s/ DEBORAH FISHER /s/ ABE UTU MALAE /s/ ANTONIO S. MUNA
Legal Counsel Asst. Exec. Director for Operation Executive Director



Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands DEPARTMENT OF LABOR Division of Labor

Second Floor Afetria Square Building, San Antonio, P.O. Box 10007, Saipan, MP 96950
Telephone no. (670) 236-0907 or 0911 Facsimile no. (670) 236-0992



NOTICE OF REVOCATION OF UMBRELLA PERMIT

Friday, April 16, 2010 - First Notice
Friday, April 23, 2010 - Second Notice

Take Notice:

The Umbrella Permits for the following individuals have been revoked after default hearing:

NAME	LIIDS	NAME	LIIDS
Acabal, Vivian	120639	Lopez, Cynthia	291003
Adelan, Rosendo	151286	Lorena, Melchor	173308
Aguirre, Evelyn	103941	Lozada, Soligay	113745
Alvaro, Edilberto	176210	Luo, Dewen	155054
Ansus, Realy	300310	Ma, Cunyan	302816
Arriola, Rosa	111115	Macale, Estelita	153342
Aspiras, Teodora	145054	Makilan, Ramelo	116772
Atud, Visitacion	110859	Malsi, Arnel	111099
Baitlon, Glenn Tiglao	311710	Mapalo, Valerie	151360
Baskinas, Ethel	290900	Mirasol, Joey	204523
Bautista, Marites	280628	Moico, Antonio	197120
Bhuiyan, Khairul	105272	Montes, Arthur	312442
Bhuiyan, MD Nozir Ahmed	133998	Nan, Changgen	286432
Biascan, Emelda	111615	Niduaza, Erano	173843
Bisnar, Alicia	133051	Oblefias, Anicia Palmaria	294348
Briones, Warlito	110861	Ocampo, Fernando	111864
Caacbay, Leonardo	103889	Palacio, Nazareth	152566
Caballero, Ethel	113861	Pantaleon, Leticia	113069
Camacho, Dionisio	131253	Parial, Aurora	134658
Campollo, Herminia	128725	Patanao, Maria Vina	189106
Cao, Ming Yan	122908	Phonsan, Sudarat	106306
Cartagena, Lina	158843	Piao, Zhengyu	295670
Cervantes, Cleofe	174220	Pineda, Mario	103433
Cervantes, Rowena	311492	Pineda, Odilon	172708
Chang, Zhenghua	297311	Pitogo, Celso	297755
Chen, Huawang	295706	Prasansee, Janthai	125368
Collo, Amante	113481	Quan, Yushan	111159
Corilla, Gaudencia	112532	Ragadi, Glory	110137
Corpuz, Leonida	127821	Rahman, MD Moklesur	125211
Cruz, Josefino	117460	Ramirez, Dominador	106678
Dawana, Violeta	173682	Ramiro, Mercedita	118223
Deng, Chaomei	286849	Ramos, Elizabeth	130783
Deng, Lixia	132833	Ranoco, Editha	123926
Dev, Madhavi Rani	291943	Rao, Haili	142496
Diocton, Teotimo	104742	Rao, Zhikun	201836
Dizon, Leticia	162262	Rasool, Amir	156370
Dosdos, Epenita	160359	Rejano, Ramon	111781
Ducut, Corazon	125412	Reonal, Julian	138015
Duenas, Nida	285988	Reyes, Allen Rey	283320
Ebdane, Rodolfo	108935	Reyes, Augusto	104411
Eusebio, Jimmy	173309	Rivera, Regginald	158101
Faura, Normita	124074	Robediso, Rosemarie	192578
Feliciano, Mary Ann	289636	Salvador, Solomon	105561
Ferrer, Susana	144745	Sanchez, Edna	133851
Galang, Elizabeth	302389	Santos, Maritess	288095
Gallega, Rogelio	101839	Shi, Lanxiang	197738
Gambon, Melchor	150136	Sikder, Mohamad Badal	175067
Gases, Nenita	128610	Sun, Hongmei	137096
Genez, Elizabeth	149993	Tejada, Ligaya	105049
Guerzon, Juanito	160764	Tuazon, Perlita	112511
Gumabay, Antonio	149396	Wang, Jing	280454
Hernandez, Bonifacio	139951	Wang, Xilan	203318
Hou, Na	300490	Wang, Xingjing	310364
Huang, Yongmei	286510	Xia, Aiming	181615
Iballar, Rodolfo	106151	Xia, Yanli	174413
Ibisate, Lucila	103796	Xiao, Yanbang	155050
Isip, Sonia Jean	287927	Xu, Hong Mei	183674
Java, Rowena	173674	Xu, Ping	181015
Jin, Jihu	281596	Xu, Xiongjie	185841
Kim, Kyeong Hee Seo	130704	Yabut, Marlyn	112515
Labarda, Lilia	286242	Yang, Honghui	123425
Lagman, Eligio	146915	Zhang, Lijun	100589
Lang, Xuefen	186234	Zheng, Feng Lin	127875
Lee, Dol Soo	144472	Zheng, Jingwen	200980
Li Xiu Yu	148802	Zheng, Xingqin	297192
Lim, Susana DJ	119067	Zhou, Yaping	170988
Llamado, Arsenia	128841	Zhuang, Yiling	189163

This is a final notice of revocation of your umbrella permit. You have fifteen (15) days from the final date of publication to appeal the order.



Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands State Board of Education Public School System

P. O. Box 501370, Saipan, MP 96950



INVITATION FOR BID PSS IFB 10-028

"Fire Alarm and Heat Detector Devices for CNMI Public School System (PSS)"

The Public School System and the State Board of Education are soliciting competitive sealed bids for the purchase of **Fire Alarm and Heat Detector Devices for the CNMI Public School System (PSS)**. The Scope of work is available beginning April 9, 2010 at the PSS Procurement & Supply office located on the 3rd floor of the CNMI Retirement Fund building, Capitol Hill, Saipan, MP 96950.

Questions shall be in writing and addressed to Robert Florian, Procurement Officer via fax at (670) 664-3791 or e-mailed to the following address: robert.florian@cnmipss.org

Bids must be placed in a sealed envelope marked **"IFB 10-028"** containing one (1) original with three (3) copies and submitted to the PSS Procurement & Supply Office situated on the 3rd Floor of the CNMI Retirement Fund Building, Capitol Hill, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than **April 30, 2010, at 10:00 a.m.**, at which time bids, will be publicly opened. Any bids received after the aforementioned date and time will be not be accepted.

This Project is funded through a grant under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA).

/S/ Rita A. Sablan, ED. D. /S/ Robert Florian
Commissioner of Education Procurement & Supply Officer

Jefferson hounds Mavs, helps carry Spurs in Game 2



DALLAS (AP)—Richard Jefferson bounded right out of Spurs coach Gregg Popovich's doghouse.

Knowing he was among the guys Popovich thought "played like dogs" in the opener, Jefferson scored 17 of his 19 points in the first half to help San Antonio beat the Dallas Mavericks 102-88 in Game 2 on Wednesday night to tie their first-round series at a game apiece.

Jefferson responded exactly the way Popovich hoped. He matched his Game 1 points in the opening minutes and was 7 of 9 by halftime, several coming during a 12-1 surge that broke the game open for good.

Tim Duncan scored 17 of his 25 points in the second half, many dousing Dallas rallies. He also had 17 rebounds.

"We went to Tim just about every other time down the stretch," Popovich said. "He came through by scoring and rebounding at the other end. He did a really good job of scoring when they cut it to six or eight."

Mavs star Dirk Nowitzki went from hardly missing in Game 1 to hardly making. The Spurs didn't even smother him; merely knowing they were creeping his way threw Nowitzki out of whack. He missed six of his first seven shots, and even missed a free throw after having made 88 in a row. He finished with 24 points, down from 36 in the opener.

The Mavericks played their best only after they seemed to have buried themselves—down 16-5 early, they got within one by the end of the quarter; down 80-60 late in the third quarter they scored 12 straight points; down 13 again early in the fourth, they clawed within five. However, they never led and have now given away home-court advantage.

Game 3 is in San Antonio on Friday night, and the folks in the Alamo City probably can't wait. They're especially looking forward to seeing Mavs owner Mark Cuban, who fanned the flames of the rivalry in recent days by repeatedly saying, "I hate the Spurs."

The Spurs built their leads by playing smart. They held onto the ball (only nine turnovers, down from 17 in Game 1), forced their way to the rim, then took advantage of the space that opened up for longer-range jumpers. In the game-breaking second quarter, their inside-out attack produced 34 points on 68 percent shooting.

"They were a hot-shooting team and we were unable to keep them from being a hot-shooting team," Dallas coach Rick Carlisle said. "When the ball's in the air, it's anybody's ball. They came up with all those plays. They got the loose balls and they were more opportunistic."

Manu Ginobili had 23 points, including a 3-pointer with 1:48 left that he punctuated with a celebratory punch as fans began rushing toward the exits.

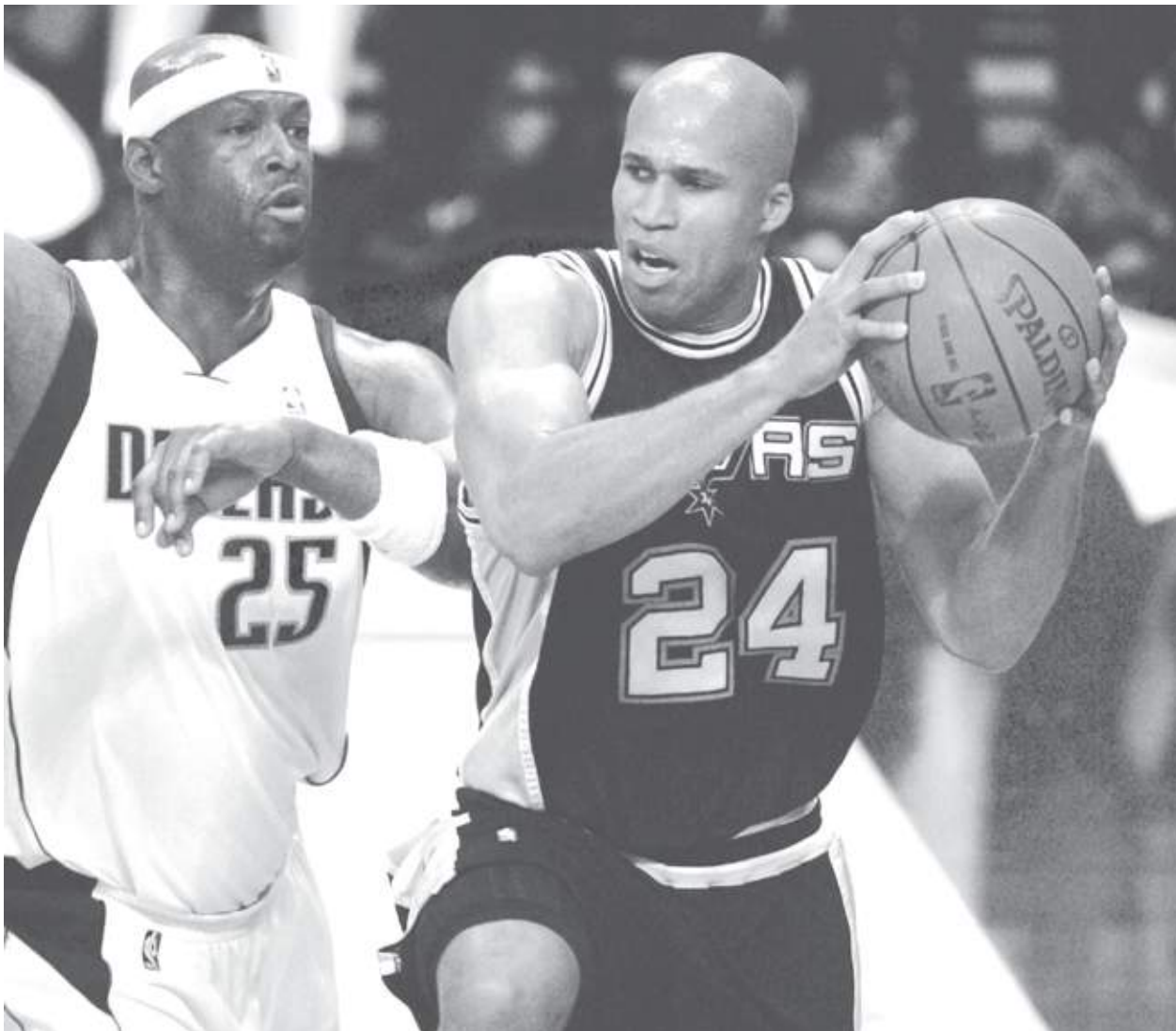
Tony Parker, still coming off the bench, had 16 points and eight assists.

"We just played sharper than we did the other night, by that I mean not fouling and taking care of the ball," Popovich said. "We were focused."

Jason Terry was a non-factor most of Game 1 for Dallas, but he hit his first two shots and kept looking for his shot all night. He finished with 27 points. Caron Butler scored 17.

Magic 92, Bobcats 77

At Orlando, Florida, the Dwight Howard-Vince Carter tandem again wasn't perfect but good enough to give the Or-



San Antonio Spurs forward Richard Jefferson goes for a shot against Dallas Mavericks center Erick Dampier during the first half of a basketball game in the first round of the NBA playoffs in Dallas on Wednesday, April 21, 2010.

lando Magic a 92-77 win over the Charlotte Bobcats on Wednesday, and a 2-0 lead in their NBA playoff series.

Carter finished with 19 points and Howard scored 15. The Magic's star duo was less than stellar but took over when it counted most. They combined for 21 second-half points to help Orlando build a 20-point lead and hold on late.

Stephen Jackson showed no effects from his hyperextended left knee to score 27 points, and Gerald Wallace had 15 points for the Bobcats. But their 21 turnovers are a big reason why they're heading home still searching for the franchise's first playoff win.

Game 3 in the best-of-seven series is Saturday in Charlotte.

The Bobcats went more than eight minutes to start the game with only three points, and had just one field goal with six turnovers during that stretch. The good news was that the Magic was almost as bad early.

The first half was a turnover-fest for both teams, and nobody could consistently hit a shot. Things were so out of sorts that the normally sharpshooting J.J. Redick even badly missed the free throw from Charlotte coach Larry Brown's technical foul in the second quarter.

The Magic put together the closest thing to a run, and they gradually eked out a 41-30 lead at half time. With Charlotte's 14 first-half turnovers,

though, they could've been up more.

Orlando's star pairing belatedly got going. Howard had nine points in the first five-plus minutes of the third before picking up his fourth foul, again relegating him to the bench.

Then, Carter took the reigns. Orlando's biggest offseason acquisition, Carter sliced his way through the lane for several layups late in the third quarter. He anchored a run that put the Magic ahead 75-55 after three quarters.

After Charlotte trimmed the lead to eight with 3:16, Carter followed with a jumper. Then Jackson missed a layup, and Jameer Nelson raced down court to convert a three-point play that sealed Orlando's win.

Roethlisberger banned six games



NEW YORK (AP)—The NFL cracked down on one of its stars Wednesday, suspending Pittsburgh Steelers quarterback Ben Roethlisberger for not just a few games but the first six of the season, even though he avoided sexual assault charges in Georgia.

The two-time Super Bowl winner was banned without pay for violating the NFL's personal conduct policy and was ordered to undergo a "comprehensive behavioral evaluation by professionals."

NFL commissioner Roger Goodell handed down the punishment a week after prosecutors decided not to charge Roethlisberger in a case involving a 20-year-old college student who accused him of sexually assaulting her in a Milledgeville, Ga., nightclub last month.

"I recognize that the allegations in Georgia were disputed and that they did not result in criminal charges being filed against you," Goodell said in

his letter to the six-year veteran.

"My decision today is not based on a finding that you violated Georgia law, or on a conclusion that differs from that of the local prosecutor. That said, you are held to a higher standard as an NFL player, and there is nothing about your conduct in Milledgeville that can remotely be described as admirable, responsible, or consistent with either the values of the league or the expectations of our fans."

Goodell said team offseason activities were off limits to the quarterback until he completes the evaluation and is cleared by the league to rejoin the Steelers.

"Your conduct raises sufficient concerns that I believe effective intervention now is the best step for your personal and professional welfare," Goodell wrote.

Trade rumors immediately swirled, and while the Steelers declined to address the speculation, they were privately weighing whether they should consider dealing their franchise quar-

terback for a Top 10 draft pick if one were offered.

Sitting out all six games would cost Roethlisberger an estimated \$2.8 million of his \$102 million total deal, though the penalty could be shortened to four games for good behavior.

Roethlisberger is the first player suspended by Goodell under the conduct policy who hasn't been arrested or charged with a crime.

Roethlisberger also is being sued by a woman who accused him of raping her at a Lake Tahoe hotel-casino in 2008. He denied the allegation and wasn't charged.

"In your six years in the NFL, you have first thrilled and now disappointed a great many people," Goodell wrote. "I urge you to take full advantage of this opportunity to get your life and career back on track."

Goodell said the league's conduct policy gave him the right to impose discipline regardless of whether Roethlisberger broke the law.

Thunder's Brooks named NBA coach of the year

OKLAHOMA CITY (AP)—Back when the Thunder were 3-29 last season, the notion of the playoffs coming to Oklahoma City any time soon was unimaginable.

But it was that same miserable stretch that made general manager Sam Presti confident that coach Scott Brooks was the right man to lead his team into the future.

While Oklahoma City struggled to the worst start in the NBA, Presti was impressed by the way Brooks stayed the course and never tried to force immediate changes in hopes of making the Thunder better. He has now taken the youngest roster in the league and turned the team into a 50-game winner and a play-off team just one season after the horrendous start.

For that best-in-the NBA turnaround, Brooks was recognized Wednesday as the NBA's coach of the year. He received 71 of 123 first-place votes and 480 points to finish ahead of Milwaukee's Scott Skiles (26 first-place votes, 313 points) and Portland's Nate McMillan (9, 107).

"He's someone that I think is incredibly consistent as a person. He is unaffected through adversities and also through successes, and I think that's an important quality we want to have as we move forward," Presti said.

Even as he was receiving a statue of Red Auerbach, Brooks faced another daunting turnaround: an 0-2 deficit in the Thunder's best-of-seven series against the defending champion Los Angeles Lakers, led by Kobe Bryant and coach Phil Jackson.

Game 3 is Thursday night in Oklahoma City.

"This is the first-time playoff experience for a lot of us, including myself, and you're playing against one of the best coaches of all sports, one of the best players ever and a team that has 1,000 (games of) play-off experience to ours," Brooks said. "But you learn from playing against the best players and the best teams, and we're going to keep fighting and figuring out ways to beat them."

While the Thunder didn't immediately start winning after Brooks took over for the fired P.J. Carlesimo, there were signs of progress. His decision to move Kevin Durant from shooting guard to small forward increased his production, and the addition of Thabo Sefolosha and Nenad Krstic plus defensive-minded assistant Ron Adams started to pay dividends, too.

"We were improved once he took over as the coach. We still lost some games that were tough but we were learning and we were getting better each day in practice," said Durant, who developed into the NBA's youngest scoring champion this season.

"I knew if we continued to do that and not come in and just say, 'Our season's done. Ain't no need to practice. Ain't no need to work hard.' We still came in and worked every day, and he made sure he brought it every day as a coach."

Halladay shutout leads Phillies over Braves



ATLANTA (AP)—Roy Halladay threw his first National League shutout—getting a couple of big assists from his defense—as the Philadelphia Phillies blanked the Atlanta Braves 2-0 on Wednesday.

Halladay (4-0), acquired in the off-season from Toronto, has lived up to the hype in his first four NL starts. He has worked 33 innings, allowing only three earned runs for an 0.82 ERA.

Raul Ibanez and Jayson Werth both hit RBI doubles against Braves starter Tim Hudson (1-1), but the win owed as much to a pair of brilliant defensive plays.

Center fielder Shane Victorino stole away a likely homer from Troy Glaus with a leaping catch in the second, and second baseman Chase Utley made a diving stop on a shot up the middle to start an inning-ending double play with the bases loaded in the seventh.

Halladay pitched his 16th career shutout. Last season, he led the majors with a career-high four.

Padres 5, Giants 2

In San Diego, the hosts won their sixth straight, downing San Francisco.

Jon Garland (1-2) held the slumping Giants to one run in seven strong innings.

Nick Hundley hit a two-run homer and Adrian Gonzalez added a solo homer for San Diego, which has won 10 of 12 against the Giants at Petco Park.

Cardinals 9, Diamondbacks 4

In Phoenix, Colby Rasmus homered twice,

including a tiebreaking shot in the ninth, as St. Louis got a testy win over Arizona.

The benches emptied in the second inning when Cardinals ace Chris Carpenter, after being hit by a pitch, tried to take out Arizona second baseman Kelly Johnson when running on a double-play ball. No punches were thrown.

It was 4-4 when Rasmus opened the ninth with a home run off Chad Qualls (0-1). The Cardinals wound up scoring five times in the inning, capped by Skip Schumaker's three-run homer.

Nationals 6, Rockies 4

In Washington, the home team beat Colorado, staying undefeated when the starting pitcher goes at least five innings.

John Lannan lasted long enough to mean the Nationals are 8-0 when their starter goes at least five, 0-7 when he doesn't.

Nationals reliever Tyler Clippard (3-0) struck out three in two scoreless innings.

The game was tied entering the eighth, when Rockies reliever Rafael Betancourt (0-1) allowed a leadoff single. After an intentional walk, Nieves lined a double.

Brewers 8, Pirates 0

In Pittsburgh, Yovani Gallardo struck out 10 in five shutout innings to steer Milwaukee over Pittsburgh.

Nine of the first 11 Pittsburgh batters that Gallardo (1-2) retired came by strikeout.

The Brewers' Ryan Braun, Rickie Weeks and Jody Gerut hit home runs

and Alcides Escobar tripled in consecutive innings for Milwaukee, which has won three straight.

Dodgers 14, Reds 6

In Cincinnati, Rafael Furcal drove in four runs with a single, double and triple to highlight another big performance by the majors' best-hitting lineup, as Los Angeles thumped Cincinnati.

Hiroki Kuroda (2-0) gave up a pair of homers and had an overturned call go against him, but got the win.

The Reds have lost six of seven, with their rotation still lacking a victory. Top starter Aaron Harang (0-3) had another rough time, giving up 10 hits in only 5 2-3 innings.

Astros 5, Marlins 4

In Houston, Geoff Blum's first career pinch-hit triple drove in two runs in the seventh inning to propel Houston over Florida.

Blum's hit off Burke Badenhop (0-2) was chased almost to the wall in center field, and gave the Astros their fourth straight win.

Humberto Quintero had two hits including a homer for the Astros, while Wilton Lopez (1-0) got the win.

Cubs 9, Mets 3

In New York, Chicago snapped a run of four straight defeats by beating New York.

Carlos Silva (2-0) added six crisp innings to his surprising comeback, using his heavy sinker to cede only one run.

Alfonso Soriano hit a two-run homer for the Cubs.

A record-low Citi Field crowd watched as the Mets' late rally petered out against Chicago's floundering bullpen.

Yankees 3, Athletics 1

At Oakland, California, New York Yankees pitcher Phil Hughes was on track for a no-hitter until the eighth inning, but had to be satisfied with a win over the Oakland Athletics.

Hughes (2-0) struck out a career-high 10 in the Yankees' sixth straight win. He was in complete control until Eric Chavez opened the eighth with a one-hopper that went back to the mound. The Yankees pitcher had little time to react and the ball struck his left hip. Hughes couldn't find the ball in front of the mound as Chavez hustled for a single.

Twins 6, Indians 0

In Minneapolis, Francisco Liriano struck out six in eight scoreless innings to guide Minnesota over Cleveland.

Liriano (2-1) walked just two in a return to the form that made him an All-Star in 2006.

Rays 12, White Sox 0

In Chicago, Tampa Bay rookie Wade Davis outpitched a very imperfect Mark Buehrle as the Rays smashed Chicago.

Davis (1-1) struck out six in six scoreless innings. After giving up a bunt single to start the game and walking three of the next five batters, he settled down, didn't walk anybody else and the only other hit he allowed was a single in the sixth.

Tigers 4, Angels 3

In Anaheim, California, Miguel Cabrera

hit a tying homer leading off the ninth inning and Ramon Santiago drove in the winner as Detroit edged Los Angeles.

Angels reliever Brian Fuentes (0-1), just off the disabled list after missing 14 games with a back strain, went to a full count against Cabrera before the Tigers' cleanup hitter homered to left-center. It was his fourth home run of the season and team-high 18th RBI.

Royals 4, Blue Jays 3, 10 innings

In Toronto, Alex Gordon picked a good time for his first homer of the season, going long with two outs in the tenth to give Kansas City victory over Toronto.

Gordon drove a pitch from Scott Downs (0-1) to centerfield. It was just the second hit of the season for Gordon, who missed the first 10 games with a broken thumb.

Red Sox 8, Rangers 7, 12 innings

In Boston, Kevin Youkilis hit an RBI double with two outs in the 12th as Boston sneaked a victory that extended Texas' losing skid to six games.

Youkilis' shot rebounded off the base of the left-center field wall. It was Boston's second straight last at-bat win.

Mariners 4, Orioles 1

In Seattle, Felix Hernandez pitched the eighth complete-game of his career to steer Seattle past Baltimore.

Hernandez (2-0) wasn't at his sharpest, but didn't issue a walk and limited Baltimore to a lone unearned run.

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More than \$100K at stake in NMC Foundation Open

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Over \$100,000 will be up for grabs in the 8th Annual NMC Foundation Open golf tournament that will hit the greens and fairways of the Laolao Bay Golf Resort tomorrow.

Included in the big pot are the \$25,000 hole-in-one on prize each on hole nos. 3 and 7, a 2010 Mazda 3 car from Triple J Motors (hole No. 13) and a 2010 Kia Rio from Joeten Motors (Joeten Motors). Cash prizes in hole-in-one are sponsored by AON Insurance and Bank of Hawaii.

Other cash prizes will be \$500 for first, \$300 for second, and \$200 for third in all flights: Championship, A, B, C, Senior, and

Ladies. The first placers will also receive a round-trip ticket (Asia and Micronesia routes only) from Continental Airlines.

NMC Foundation, which is organizing the annual tournament to raise funds for its efforts to enhance educational opportunities in the CNMI, is aiming to attract more than 100 golfers in the week-end event.

"We are extremely grateful to the businesses that contributed in our golf tournament and in our efforts to raise funds for NMC. We look forward to seeing our supporters play a game of golf this Saturday," NMC Foundation president Ben Babauta said.

Expected to compete in tomorrow's tournament is defending

champion Seung Woo Kang. The Dandan Driving Range instructor shot a 72 last year for a two-stroke lead over Adam Hardwicke and a three-shot advantage over 2004 winner Jeff Taylor. The Korean golfer struggled in the front nine against the not so ideal condition of the west course of the Kagman facility with his 2-over par 38 before closing out strong with a 2-under par 34.



Babauta

Kang and Senior Flight champion Edward Manibusan were the only two players in the field to save par last year, surviving the challenge of the wet course. It rained midway in the tournament last year and most of the participants were not done with their games.

This year's NMC Open is be-

ing supported by Continental Airlines, Laolao Bay Golf Resort, Bank of Hawaii, AON Insurance, Triple J Motors, Joeten

Motors, Toothworks, Summer Holiday Hotel, Luen Fung Enterprise, G4S Security Services, Dial Rent-to-Own, IT&E, and Saipan

Computer Services.

Check-in time is 6am, while a shotgun start will take place at 7am.

Coaches' clinic starts tonight

There will be a baseball clinic for all interested coaches, managers, and umpires conducted by Baseball Confederation of Oceania Development Officer Ray Brown.

The clinic will consist of two segments—a technical portion and a theory portion.

The technical portion will take place tonight from 6pm to 9pm at the Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios Ballfield.

The theory portion will be from 6am to 9m on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday of next week (April 26, 28, and 30, 2010) and will be held in the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium conference room.

Saipan Little League Association president Tony Rogolifoi is inviting all aspiring coaches, managers, and umpires to attend the free clinics. Interested participants are urged

to come prepared to learn and ask questions.

"Please take advantage of this opportunity. Mr. Brown has a broad range of knowledge and experience in nearly all aspects of baseball that he is willing to share with all of you... Please come," stated Rogolifoi.

Brown is a former professional pitcher and talent scout for both the Seattle Mariners and the San Diego Padres.

For more information about the coaches' clinic, contact Tony Rogolifoi at 288-3515. (Walter J. Sutherland)

TENNIS

From Page 36

the Micronesian Games. Tenai, who then represented Nauru, defeated Race.

"It [Micro Games finals] was one of my most memorable times with him. We really had a great match. Another one was

when we both tried out for the Pacific Oceania Davis Cup team in 1995," Race said.

"Lency's death is definitely a sad moment for the Pacific tennis community. He was a great player and a great coach. He did not talk much, but when he did, you can feel his sincerity. He had this charisma that made players approach him and ask

for his help," Race added.

Tenai made the first Pacific Oceania team that played in the Davis Cup in 1995. He won his debut in the Davis Cup in Dubai against United Arab Emirates' Saeed-Hasher Al Maktoum, 6-0, 6-2, en route to leading the Islanders to a 3-0 win over the host.

The Solomon Island netter went on to play for the Pacific

Oceania Davis Cup team for seven years, suiting up for the squad for the last time in 2001. With Tenai around, Pacific Oceania managed to climb up from Group IV to Group II in the Asian-Oceania Davis Cup tie. Tenai, who earned a tennis scholarship from the famous Australia Institute of Sports in Canberra and trained alongside Patrick Rafter, holds the record

in the most wins in Davis Cup among Pacific Oceania players with his 27-21 mark.

Two years before his last stint with the Pacific Oceania Davis Cup team, Tenai was named OTF development officer for Pacific and ANZ Tennis Ambassador.

"He was the first indigenous regional development officer in any sport in Oceania and was held in

high regard by ONOC attending some of their general assemblies," stated in the OTF website, which paid tribute to Tenai yesterday.

"Lency was a great character and a true friend to everyone. The OTF wishes to convey our deepest sympathy to Lency's wife and family, and to his friends in the Solomon Islands and Guam," OTF added.

BULAON

From Page 36

match in the elimination round against Saul Gargallo.

The loss was Aguda's first in four games, dropping him to second place. Hapi Gabriel and Andreau Galvez are tied for third with identical 1-2 record, while Guintu and Gargallo are in a deadlock for last place with similar 0-2 slates.

In the men's B singles, Noli Santos is undefeated in five games and will go for a sweep when he faces Jorge Olanda this weekend. Santos prevailed over Roger Vales, Edwin Maratas, Mario Diola, Rodwealth Espana, and Aries Cordero.

In the men's C singles, youth player Matansu Omori has the lead with his 2-0 record, while Rob Harrell is in second place with a 1-0 mark. Chris Hilario split his first two games to place third, while Kanata Omori dropped all his three games in the elimination round.

In the women's singles B Group A, Malou Malasarte and Angie Ito have gained two victories each to share the lead, while Cheng Saturno and Annarose Omori have notched one win apiece. Jaja Samonte remained winless in three games.

In Group B, Loida Ito has earned a 2-1 record to lead the pack, while Marlene Peraja and Hannai Choi have nailed one

win each.

In the women's singles C, Toshiko Obata is unbeaten in two games, downing Merlie Tolentino and Elna Curate. Tolentino holds a 2-1 record, prevailing over Annette Quiambao and Curate. Quiambao has an even 1-1 mark, winning over Annette Ta, while Heo In Suk also has one win against Ta.

In the mixed doubles A, the tandems of Aguda and Peraja and Guintu and Hannah have yet to drop a game. Aguda and Peraja lead Group A with their 3-0 slate and they will for a sweep when they meet Bulaon and Shirley Kim, who are also unbeaten in two games.

Guintu and Hanna hold similar 3-0 slate to lead Group B of

the mixed doubles A and can have a sweep if they will beat Gerry Hibi and Cristy Villaflores this weekend. Gabriel and Malasarte are done with their assignments in Group B, finishing with a 3-1 record.

In the mixed doubles B, Jojo Savellano and Angie Ito are still flawless with their 5-0 record to fortify their hold to the top spot in Group B.

In Group A, only Malasarte and Vales have yet to lose a game after downing Ezekiel Macario and Gigi Zapanta and Olanda and Kim.

In the mixed doubles C, Manatsu Omori and Quiambao have the lead with their 3-1 mark, sweeping their last three games after losing their debut.

RANGERS

From Page 36

The pennant champions widened the gap in the third inning as Alepuyu and Iguel singled in Yamada and Hector Efraim, respectively, and the Rangers'

lead increased to 7-3.

Both teams went silent in the fourth inning, but the Rangers loaded the bases against Duenas in the fifth and Alepuyu, Iguel, Omar, and Roy Celis all touched home to make it 11-3.

The Brewers struggled for the rest of the game against the

Rangers' vaunted power pitcher, going 1-2-3 in the fifth, sixth and, seventh innings.

The Rangers still needed three runs to end the game early and they got them; scoring two runs in the sixth and three more in the seventh.

The Rangers then called

on Franco Flores to replace Kapileo and the veteran reliever didn't disappoint as he shut down the Brewskies for the team's eighth win in as many games.

The loss, meanwhile, dropped the Brew Crew to a 2-6 win-loss card for the season.

THIS

From Page 36

measure them up and even in 10th grade, they looked formidable. Nfl.com says of Maurice, "He may be the best center prospect in 10 years."

For the record, the Pouncey's combined won-loss record in high school and college was 80-6. I am not aware of any football player who can match that.

One game I sat behind their fa-

ther. That's my NFL connection.

Say what? Heard the announcer on last Sunday's rugby game in New Zealand in describing one of the players say, "He's the littlest cucumber on the field." Don't ask me what he meant.

American football junkies should watch Australian television channel 53 on weekend evenings during prime time to satisfy their quench for gridiron grit. Grab a Foster's, sit back and enjoy non-stop action. Rugby and Aussie rules football are

more exciting than, say, watching teams draft players.

Kevin Garnett was one of my favorite NBA players. I use past tense after his totally unnecessary and violent elbow into Quentin Richardson's face.

Q: What was Ben Rothlisberger thinking? A: He wasn't. His six game suspension could very well derail the Steelers playoff hopes this season as that is 37.5 percent of the regular season and one win/loss is enough to make or break getting to the postsea-

son. What makes it mind-boggling is the fact that he has a pending civil suit for a similar, huh, misadventurous transaction. Perhaps his motorcycle accident caused more head damage than we realized.

The president of the Colorado Rockies Keli McGregor passed away in his hotel room apparently of natural causes. He was 48 years old. Another reminder that we should live each day as if it is our last day on earth because we never know if it is.

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

NBA LEADERS

Scoring

	G	FG	FT	PTS	AVG
Anthony, DEN	2	27	18	74	37.0
Nowitzki, DAL	1	12	12	36	36.0
Nelson, ORL	1	10	8	32	32.0
James, CLE	2	25	12	64	32.0
Bryant, LAL	2	18	20	60	30.0
Williams, UTA	2	15	25	59	29.5
Durant, OKC	2	19	14	56	28.0
Wade, MIA	2	22	6	55	27.5
Duncan, SAN	1	12	3	27	27.0
Ginobili, SAN	1	10	3	26	26.0
Rose, CHI	2	23	5	51	25.5
Wallace, CHA	1	8	9	25	25.0
Johnson, ATL	2	22	3	49	24.5
Butler, DAL	1	8	5	22	22.0
Gasol, LAL	2	15	14	44	22.0
Richardson, PHX	2	15	7	43	21.5
Jennings, MIL	2	17	4	43	21.5
Miller, POR	2	14	14	43	21.5
Westbrook, OKC	2	15	11	42	21.0
Boozer, UTA	2	19	1	39	19.5

FG Percentage

	FG	FGA	PCT
Nowitzki, DAL	12	14	.857
Haywood, DAL	4	5	.800
Lewis, ORL	8	11	.727
Jos. Smith, ATL	15	21	.714
Hilario, DEN	14	20	.700
Korver, UTA	10	15	.667
Wallace, CHA	8	13	.615
Mbah a Moute, MIL	8	13	.615
Wade, MIA	22	36	.611
Hill, PHX	12	20	.600

Rebounds

	G	OFF	DEF	TOT	AVG
Wallace, CHA	1	1	16	17	17.0
Camby, POR	2	5	22	27	13.5
Gasol, LAL	2	8	17	25	12.5
Dampier, DAL	1	5	7	12	12.0
Jos. Smith, ATL	2	7	17	24	12.0
Boozer, UTA	2	4	19	23	11.5
Bynum, LAL	2	8	14	22	11.0
Ilyasova, MIL	2	9	12	21	10.5
Noah, CHI	2	7	14	21	10.5
Varejao, CLE	2	4	16	20	10.0

Assists

	G	AST	AVG
Williams, UTA	2	25	12.5
Nash, PHX	2	25	12.5
Rondo, BOS	2	22	11.0
Kidd, DAL	1	11	11.0
Billups, DEN	2	19	9.5
Rose, CHI	2	18	9.0
M. Williams, CLE	2	16	8.0
Jos. Smith, ATL	2	13	6.5
James, CLE	2	13	6.5
Ginobili, SAN	1	6	6.0

MLB STANDINGS

AMERICAN LEAGUE

East Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
New York	11	3	.786	—
Tampa Bay	11	4	.733	1/2
Toronto	9	7	.563	3
Boston	6	9	.400	5 1/2
Baltimore	2	14	.125	10

Central Division

Minnesota	11	4	.733	—
Detroit	8	7	.533	3
Cleveland	6	8	.429	4 1/2
Kansas City	6	9	.400	5
Chicago	5	10	.333	6

West Division

Oakland	9	7	.563	—
Seattle	9	7	.563	—
Los Angeles	8	8	.500	1
Texas	5	9	.357	3

NATIONAL LEAGUE

East Division

Philadelphia	9	5	.643	—
Atlanta	8	6	.571	1
Florida	8	7	.533	1 1/2
Washington	8	7	.533	1 1/2
New York	6	9	.400	3 1/2

Central Division

St. Louis	10	5	.667	—
Milwaukee	7	7	.500	2 1/2
Pittsburgh	7	7	.500	2 1/2
Chicago	6	9	.400	4
Cincinnati	6	9	.400	4
Houston	5	9	.357	4 1/2

West Division

San Diego	9	6	.600	—
San Francisco	8	7	.533	1
Los Angeles	7	7	.500	1 1/2
Colorado	7	8	.467	2
Arizona	6	9	.400	3

Yesterday's Games

San Diego 5, San Francisco 2
Washington 6, Colorado 4
Milwaukee 8, Pittsburgh 0
Chicago Cubs 9, N.Y. Mets 3
L.A. Dodgers 14, Cincinnati 6
Philadelphia 2, Atlanta 0
Houston 5, Florida 4
St. Louis 9, Arizona 4
Kansas City 4, Toronto 3, 10 innings
Boston 8, Texas 7, 12 innings
Minnesota 6, Cleveland 0
Tampa Bay 12, Chicago White Sox 0
Detroit 4, L.A. Angels 3
N.Y. Yankees 3, Oakland 1
Seattle 4, Baltimore 1

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Clinic teaches kids important baseball fundamentals



Visiting baseball instructor Ray Brown teaches Senior League baseball players how to properly warm up their arms during the beginning of Wednesday's youth baseball clinic.

WALTER J. SUTHERLAND

By **WALTER J. SUTHERLAND**
walter_sutherland@saipantribune.com
REPORTER



About 25 athletes participated in a player's clinic for Senior League baseball players on Wednesday afternoon at Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios Ballfield.

Palacios Ballfield.

The clinic was conducted by Baseball Confederation of Oceania Development Officer Ray Brown.

A former minor and major league talent scout for the San Diego Padres and Seattle Mariners, Brown said his drills and methods of discipline were

purposely aimed to sharpen the players' fundamental skills.

Players were instructed how to execute proper stretching and warm-up routines, throwing and fielding drills, as well as lead off and base running procedures.

Also in Wednesday's clinic the Senior League players got a chance to hit some balls as

Brown showed players how to break down their swinging motions to promote more consistent and solid contact at the plate.

"We have very athletic kids here in the CNMI, but many of them have not yet been introduced to these types of technical training and practice methods that will help them raise the

level of their game. I expect that they will benefit greatly from these tricks of the trade passed down by Mr. Brown in the clinic," said Kagman Lions coach Syl Ada, who was present at the player's clinic.

"We are grateful that Mr. Brown has shared his time and expertise to help our young athletes. As many of the participants have noticed, Brown's tactics require a lot of discipline, but that's good since many of these players are growing into young adults," said Senior League president Tony Rogolifoi.

If players are interested in participating, another clinic will be held this afternoon at 4pm at

Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios Ballfield. Players are required to be on time and come prepared with hats, gloves, equipment, baseball pants, cleats, and their water bottles.

The remaining schedule for the baseball clinics include: April 19 to 24 for Senior League and April 26 to 30 for Big League. All sessions will run from 3:30pm to 5:30pm.

Brown is also scheduled to hold umpire and coaches clinic and will travel to Tinian next month for similar seminars.

For more information about the clinic, contact Saipan Major League's Rose Igitol at 287-1129.

All set for Miekko Micro Games fundraiser

It's all system go for the Miekko Carey Mountain Bike Fundraising Race that will hit the road this Sunday.

Carey, who is organizing the race to raise funds for her campaign in the 2010 Micronesian Games in Palau in August, said prizes await the Top 3 placers in the men's and women's division in the short and long courses. In the kids course, each participant will receive a certificate of completion.

The kids course will be around the Paupau parking lot, while the short course will start from Paupau then to Banzai, Grotto trail, and turn right to ride on the road and back to Paupau.

There is a slight change in the long course to ensure safety of the riders. Participants will also start from Paupau then head to Banzai trail, Grotto trail, down to the Grotto parking lot, up to Autobahn, cross the road to Bird Island, and

go up Kimikaze. Then riders will turn left toward the top of Suicide Cliff, turn left again on the jeep road behind the golf course, shift to right on the trail that leads to the road to the golf course, take another left at the bottom of the hill (just across Marianas Country Club), and then back to Paupau.

Riders are advised to be at the starting line by 6:30am for the registration. Race time is at 7am. Registration fee is only \$10.

At the end of the race, Carey will be giving away raffle prizes from sponsors Pacific Islands Club, Big Dipper, Mai Thai Spicy Restaurant, Yu Yu Spa, Gold's Gym, Brabu Pharmacy, Country House, Midori Yakkyoku, and Expressions.

The Sunday race will be a double fundraiser, as Lewie Tenorio—Miekko's teammate in the Micro Games—will sell hotdogs at the finish line to raise funds for the quadrennial event. *(Roselyn B. Monroyo)*

PIC dodgeball tournament draws 14 teams

Fourteen teams had signed up for the 2010 PIC Dodgeball Tournament that will kick off at the Pacific Islands Club tennis court this weekend.

Squads that had already confirmed their participation in the fundraiser were Pacific Trading, Co., IT&E, Jhie Vallo Team, Huevos Grandes, Manatee, G4S, Ideal Team, Boutiki Bashers, Assassina-tors, Seaside Flash, Culinary/Stewarding, Housekeeping,

Finance, and Front Desk.

PIC assistant restaurant manager Rommell Bartolo, one of the organizers of the event, said majority of the teams are from Pacific Islands Club and proceeds from the event will go to cancer survivors, including a former PIC employee.

"We are looking forward to a very exciting tournament this weekend, as in the past dodgeball events, teams really enjoyed the fun games. It (dodge-

ball tournament) is one way of promoting camaraderie and teamwork among co-workers, friends, and other groups," Bartolo said.

Entry fee in the tournament that will run this Friday and Saturday is only \$100 and each team can have as much as 10 players with only six going on the court and four acting as substitutes. Each team must have at least two female members and one female should be on the

court at all times.

Each match will be played for three minutes and the team with more players left on the court after the game time will be declared the winner. A double-elimination format will be implemented in the tournament.

For more information about the tournament, contact Bartolo at 234-7976 extension 5182 or PIC restaurant manager Henry Worswick at extension 5138. *(Roselyn B. Monroyo)*



Simeon Kapileo filled the eighth slot in USS Peleliu Club's Mother's Day

8-Ball Tournament by rolling through Sunday's qualifying tournament without a loss.

Kapileo won a trophy from Pacific Amusement and a shot at the big trophy and prizes on May 9. He will also play previous qualifier Edward Suzuki before Thursday's tournament for a shot at a USSP T-shirt.

Free qualifying tournaments are held every Thursday and Sunday, with the 13 winners and three runners-up with the most points earning slots in the Mother's Day final.

There is no entry fee. First place is good for \$100, with \$50 for second. There will also be tro-

Eight is great for Kapileo



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Simeon Kapileo went undefeated in last Sunday's qualifying round for USS Peleliu Club's Mother's Day 8-Ball Tournament.

phies courtesy of Pacific Amusement and in-house prizes.

Kapileo surprised Juancho Mendoza, then also sent Leonard Sablan and Ron Chisato

to the loser's bracket. Chisato bounced back from the loser's bracket, but it was Kapileo's night and he took the first game for the win.

John Mongami had to settle for third place. He lost to Sablan and won a rematch in the other half of the bracket before falling to Chisato. Sablan had eliminated Annie Tesiro.

Erina Olkeril and Chisato are tied for the points lead for one of the three "open" slots, with Chester Cuento a point behind.

Larry Briones, Nolan Cultura, Brian Nelvis, Rick Rengil, Taylor Watanabe, and Mei Rengil have also already won qualifying tournaments.

Sign-up begins at 7:30pm for the free Thursday and Sunday tournaments. All games are double-elimination, following Billiard Congress of America rules.

For more information, contact USSP owners Rose or Ken Phillips at 233-1984. *(USSP)*



ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Miekko Carey and Lewie Tenorio, seen here cooling down after the PIC Race for a Cause early this month, will be holding fundraisers for the Micronesian Games this Sunday.

Tennis great Tenai passes away

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Pacific Oceania tennis lost a pillar in Lency Tenai, who passed away on Wednesday in the Solomon Islands due to a lingering illness.

He was 42.

Guam National Tennis Federation president Bill Camacho, in an e-mail to *Saipan Tribune* yesterday, confirmed Tenai's death, saying the federation is now arranging services for the Solomon Island native.



Guam was the last stop of Tenai's illustrious tennis career, both as a player and as a coach. He came to the island in 2007 to take the coaching post of the Guam National Team and become the tennis director of the Hilton Guam Resort & Spa. Last year, he went to Saipan, leading a small group of Guam netters that played in the Pacific Islands Club tournament. Tenai teamed up with Torgun Smith and won the men's open doubles finals against Peter Loyola and Kirk Schuler.

CNMI coach Jeff Race failed to play against Tenai in last year's PIC tournament, but challenged the Solomon netter in 1994 for the gold medal in

See **TENNIS** on Page 34



Lency Tenai, left, seen here exchanging high-fives with Torgun Smith after scoring a point against Saipan's Kirk Schuler and Peter Loyola in the men's open doubles division of the Pacific Islands Club Tennis Tournament at the PIC Saipan hard court last year, passed away on Wednesday due to a lingering illness.

Rangers remain undefeated, beat Brewers

By WALTER J. SUTHERLAND
walter_sutherland@saipantribune.com
REPORTER



Pennant champion St. Michael Rangers completed a sweep of the regular season after routing Miller Brewers, 16-3, in a mercy rule-shortened 2010 Saipan Major League game Wednesday night at the Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios Ballfield.

The Brewers actually came out swinging against the Rangers as they posted three early runs until Rangers ace pitcher Kelvin Kapi- leo settled down to contain the "Old Masters" allowing five hits in six innings with seven strikeouts and one walk.

The match up served as a preview to next week's playoffs where the fourth place Brewers will get another shot at ending the Rangers' perfect season. Their best-of-three series starts Monday at 7pm at the Oleai Sports Complex.

After Tyrone Omar singled to bring home Jesus Iguel and give Rangers a 1-0 lead, Brewers retaliated in the bottom of the first when Ron Benavente crossed home plate on a sacrifice fly by Manny Sablan.

The Rangers went on their patented scoring sprees against Brewers pitcher Ben Duenas in the second inning as Shane Yamada, Pat Alepuyu, Iguel, and Omar all reached home plate to give their team a 5-1 advantage.

Brewers would answer meekly in the bottom of the inning as Byron Kaipat scored on a Ranger error to make it 5-2.

Manny Quitano then drew a walk to give the Brewers two runners on with no outs.

The Rangers made a good defensive stand until Benavente came through for the Brewers when he belted an RBI to make it 5-3, still in favor of the Rangers.

See **RANGERS** on Page 34

Bulaon nears sweep of men's A singles

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Rey Bulaon is a win away from sweeping the round-robin men's singles A division of the 2010 IT&E Singles/Mixed Doubles Badminton Competition after notching two more wins over the weekend at the REM Center in Gualo Rai.



Bulaon stunned perennial men's A singles champion Macoi Aguda on Friday, 21-13, 19-21, 21-13, and then swept Dick Guinto on Saturday, 21-14, 21-17, to improve to a 4-0 record and take the lead in six-man field.

The victory assured Bulaon a slot in the semifinals regardless of the result of his last

See **BULAON** on Page 34



Rey Bulaon reaches for the shuttlecock during the first set of his men's A singles game against Dick Guinto in the 2010 IT&E Singles/Mixed Doubles Badminton Competition on Saturday at the REM Center in Gualo Rai.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

This and that

Like strawberries and liver, cake and mustard, or ice cream and pickles, here are scatter-brained reflections of the week in sports that may not really go together well.

But what is sports except for trying?

Today's NFL draft is bigger than the country's deficit. Oops, apples and mangoes. Nothing is bigger than USA's deficit except maybe Tim Tebow's heart.

The evolution (or perhaps de-evolution) of the NFL continues with the first round hogging one whole night of prime time on ESPN with enough suspense to hold over for another televised night of "name that player." Maybe after it's over, they can replay national high school signing day highlights or a two-hour special on junior high prospects.

Tim Tebow will be the third Gator drafted. O-lineman Maurkice Pouncey will be ahead of him. I saw him and his twin brother Mike play three years at high school where they went undefeated, winning three state championships. Once I walked past them just to

See **THIS** on Page 34

OFF THE BENCH

By BOB COLDEEN
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Coldeen is a longtime journalist in the CNMI and is currently the news director of KSPN2

